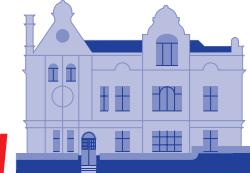


OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018

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TOP WHERE SOLD

USE HOMES CASH TO SORT DANGER ROAD

Report by Jonny Drury

OSWESTRY councillors are calling for money from a number of housing developments to be used to carry out urgent traffic calming measures on a danger road.

Councillors in Morda and the surrounding area have long been calling for the speed limit in Weston Road, which links the village with Maesbury Road and the bypass, to be reduced to 30mph.

The speed limit is 60mph – however more housing developments around the village have led to an increased traffic flow and further heightened safety fears.

Plans were in place last year for a reduced speed limit, but last month it was revealed that cash-strapped Shropshire Council has had to delay plans.

A £5 million cut in the authority's transport budget means the work won't be done until 2020/21 at the earliest.

Now Oswestry Rural Parish Council has decided to take matters into its own hands, and look into using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), created from the numerous housing developments in the village to pay for the urgent work.

Parish councillor Robert Milton said: "We are looking into the CIL money as a possibly solution because this work really needs doing."

"It has become something of a rat run for years now with people using it to access the bypass. It is an extremely dangerous road now."

"The speed limit needs to be reduced and new signage needs to be installed, and hopefully due to the council's delays we can use the CIL money to bring this work forward."

The council has written to Shropshire Council to investigate the possibility of the work being done with the help of the CIL money.

It is not known how much the work would cost, and Mr Milton added: "The road is being used more and more, certainly since the Maesbury Road junction works."

"It has become unsafe on Weston Road, and will become even worse."

Thelma Parker who lives in Weston Lane and has campaigned for improvements, added: "It is a nonsense that this small, winding lane has a 60mph speed limit."

"We were told last year we would get the new speed limit. Now it is getting postponed. It is dangerous."

Hospital post office is in a league of its own



Cutting the ribbon to launch the revamped post office are Peter David, Oswestry Mayor Sandy Best and Mark Brandreth

A POST office which has opened inside a hospital is the first in the UK to be taken over by its League of Friends.

The official opening of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Post Office was marked by the mayor of Oswestry Sandy Best, hospital chief executive Mark Brandreth and the League of Friends chairman Peter David cutting the ribbon.

The post office had been based next door to

the League of Friends shop in separate premises.

When the former long-serving postmaster Sheila Donning wanted to leave to concentrate on her other branch at Gobowen, the League of Friends agreed to take on the post office and to combine the shops to make better use of the space and to avoid duplication of products.

Both shop premises in the foyer of the hos-

pital have now merged with the new League of Friends shop and post office fully refurbished in a project that took five weeks.

The old-style full screened post office counter has been replaced by a modern open-plan counter alongside the retail counter.

Patients, staff and those visiting the post office will benefit from longer opening hours.

The new postmaster is Victoria Sugden, charity director at The League of Friends.

CRIME

Hearing next month to consider assets of disgraced lawyer

A HEARING will be held next month to decide how much money can be recovered from a disgraced solicitor turned financial advisor who fiddled clients to the tune of almost £1.5 million.

David Vaughan Jones, 79, of Leighton, Welshpool, admitted a total of 24 fraud and theft charges between 1994 and 2015, but had been given a chance by a judge to pay back the £1.495 million he owed.

But he never paid a penny and was jailed in May last year. He appeared before Mold Crown Court for a proceeds of crime hearing, to see how much of his criminal benefit could be confiscated.

However due to an upcoming related high court hearing next week, the matter was adjourned to July 20.

Mr James Davis, prosecuting, said the amount involved was £1,495,000, although one victim had obtained £98,384 following civil proceedings.

Mr Jeremy Lasker, for Jones, said it was his client's contention funds were available and he had been to the Channel Islands on five occasions to try and sort matters out. The court heard how Jones, a founder member of the Evangelical Church in Newtown, who conned friends and church goers out of thousands, had lost five stone in weight since his incarceration.

ENTERTAINMENT

New date is set for music festival

A MUSIC festival which had to be cancelled due to severe flash floods has been re-scheduled.

Organisers had to cancel Welshpool Music Festival when the town was hit by flooding at the end of last month.

The music festival has been re-scheduled for August 18.

Performers who would like to take part in the re-scheduled festival have been invited to contact the event organisers at wmfest@ymail.com

INSIDE

Mickey is kept in the picture



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Bathrooms - Tiles - Flooring - Interiors

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for further details

CONTACT US

Associate Editor: Iain St John:
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk
Reporter: Sue Austin: 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk
Reporter: Jonny Drury 01691 668098
jonny.drury@shropshirestar.co.uk
Sport: Dave Cooper: 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk
Photographic: 01691 668094
Regional advertising sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk
Advertising supervisor:
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk
Sales representatives:
Connor Harris: 01691 668090
connor.harris@shropshirestar.co.uk
Gary Tsang: 01691 668091
gary.tsang@shropshirestar.co.uk
Distribution: 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

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Town council wants to take over parking enforcement

Report by Jonny Drury

OSWESTRY Town council wants to take over parking enforcement after receiving numerous complaints about "overzealous" wardens.

Councillors have been left frustrated by residents contacting them, saying that parking wardens have been giving them tickets for parking early in the morning and on Sundays.

The matter was discussed at a town council meeting on Wednesday last week after a motion was put forward by Councillor Chris Schofield.

He proposed that the council, which already has two parking wardens manning its own car parks, takes over enforcement operations for both on and off street car parks.

He believes the town council can do a better job because it has better knowledge of the area and it would put a stop to complaints about ticketing at random times.

Right

He said: "The complaints have been going on a while about being booked early on the morning and on a Sunday, and that can't be right."

"It is nothing against traffic wardens, and I am not condoning illegal parking but people shouldn't be getting booked on a Sunday. It is just overzealous parking wardens, and it drives me nuts, it is complete madness to book people at these times."

"Councillors have had enough really, others have been receiving complaints and we feel we can do it a lot better than Shropshire Council."

Councillor Schofield's motion received the backing of fellow members and the council is now contacting Shropshire Council to explore the move.

He believes it could be an opportunity for the local authority to offload a service.

He added: "There just needs to be a bit of common sense."

"Authorities are always looking to get rid of services, and this is one we want to take on."

Law team swap their briefs for brushes



The team, back from left, Adam Davies and Graham Fuller, and front, Carina Kervin, Suzanne Preston, Samantha Roberts, Megan Price and Stuart Rea brush up their skills

STAFF from a Shropshire law firm swapped their briefs for brushes to help out with a painting project for Hope House Children's Hospice.

Solicitors from the charities and the wills, probate and lifetime planning teams at FBC Manby Bowdler donned their overalls and used their decorating skills to transform the charity's summer house at its base in Morda, near Oswestry.

Hope House is one of FBC Manby Bowdler's two current charity partners. The

charity runs facilities at Hope House at Oswestry and Ty Gobaith at Conwy providing care and support to life-limited children, young people and their families from Shropshire, Cheshire, North and Mid Wales.

As well as providing practical support such as painting, FBC Manby Bowdler staff are organising and taking part in a host of activities to raise funds for the charity partners.

Head of the firm's charities team, Stuart Rea, said: "We had a brilliant time, giving

the summer house a new lease of life so it can be enjoyed by everyone at Hope House.

"It made a nice change to our usual work and it was great to see day-to-day life in operation at the hospice so we know what our fundraising is supporting."

Lynsey Kilvert, area fundraiser for Shropshire and Powys at Hope House, said: "The summer house is a great facility in our grounds where children and their families can go and relax and enjoy some fresh air.

"It has been brightened up considerably."

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Ex-school in village could be developed

A PRIMARY school that closed almost six years ago could be brought back into life as sheltered housing or offices.

Iton Heath Primary School in St Martins has been closed since 2012 after merging with St Martins all-through school.

Shropshire Council had put the school building up for sale, however county councillor for the village Steve Davenport called on the council to take it off the market.

He didn't want to see the site snapped up by developers, and instead wants to see it turned into something which will benefit the village, such as offices or sheltered housing.

He said: "It was originally put up for sale by the council but it would have just been snapped up by developers, and we didn't want to see that."

"There has been discussions and something that is being looked at is the possibility of sheltered accommodation or even offices.

"Planning is in the early stages but discussions have taken place."

Two years ago a traveller family moved onto the site at the primary school.

Councillor Davenport has been full of praise for the Stokes family, who are well thought of in the village and said an application has been made to extend their stay on the site for a further 12 months.

Groups have a chance for funds

GROUPS in villages near Oswestry have the chance to bid for funding.

The Three Parishes Big Local lottery fund which covers Gobowen, Weston Rhyn and St Martins has a Community Chest with a pot of money that groups can bid for. Organisations can put forward an application for up to £500.

Contact (01691) 656882 for details.

Report by Jonny Drury

ONLY a fraction of the births needed to keep rural midwife led units open in Shropshire are taking place according to health bosses.

A review is currently taking place into the midwife led units across Shropshire, in particular rural units in Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry.

The review, which is in the hands of NHS England, is calling for birthing centres to be housed in Shrewsbury and Telford and rural units to aid mothers with other services, however they won't have beds for post natal care.

Units in Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow have been subjected to multiple closures in the last year due to staff shortages, with Oswestry still closed for births until Sunday.

Campaigners have said the reason birth numbers are down is because the units are always closed, but Dr Julian Povey, Shropshire CCG chair, said numbers have been down for many years, and only a fraction of the births needed to keep them open are being delivered.

He said: "Numbers have been falling in the last five to six years.

"There needs to be a certain number of births to keep midwives' skills up, but those births are not happening."

"I think there needs to be around 250, but at the moment in the rural units the numbers are only at about 40 to 50, which is not high enough."

The consultation on the CCG's proposal for the future of maternity services won't take place any sooner than October, with bosses stating their hands are tied as NHS England now has the proposal.

Campaigners are still calling for rural units to remain, and Dr Povey said in an ideal world that could happen but he stated it isn't an ideal world where every town can have a gold star maternity unit.

He added: "It is mirroring the Future Fit calls that have been made.

"People want two A&Es fully staffed with doctors but it isn't possible."

Bee friendly to the pollinators



Ellen Plack and daughter Ffion at a Meet the Bees event at Chirk Castle when they donned suits to inspect a hive

lic demonstration days when groups can get dressed up in bee suits and peer into a hive to see how it works.

The Welsh Assembly has launched a Bee Friendly scheme which seeks to help all pollinators by creating a nation of pollinator-friendly communities and organisations.

Bee Friendly is aimed at communities and community organisations, schools, public bodies, town and community councils, businesses, universities and colleges, places of

worship and many other organisations, all around Wales.

Visitor services manager at the castle, Jon Hignett, said: "We are very proud at Chirk to have recently become the first National Trust property in Wales to have been accredited as Bee Friendly under the new Welsh government scheme."

There will be a drop-in session with the bee keeper on August 18 and in September he will show how honey is extracted.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man admits to sex assault claim

A MID Wales man has admitted a sexual assault charge.

Simon Thomas, 52, of Brookfield Road, Welshpool, appeared in the dock at Mold Crown Court on Friday, facing a charge of sexual assault. He pleaded guilty to the offence, which dates back to January last year.

Judge Nicolas Parry told him he would receive full credit in sentencing for pleading guilty at such an early stage. He ordered Thomas to register as a sex offender, asked for a pre-sentence report, and said all sentencing options would have to remain open at this stage. Thomas was re-bailed pending sentence on July 10.

Spiritual centre to meet again

OSWESTRY Spiritual Centre welcomes for the first time Dianne Davies as its guest medium for its evening demonstration.

The centre will meet up at the Cambrian Room in Oswestry's Memorial Hall this evening (Thursday).

The event runs from 7.30pm to 9pm and doors open at 7pm.

The cost is £3.50.

People can call 07891 084071 for more details.

Exhibition set to take place at hall

PLANS are in hand for a major arts exhibition at Oswestry's Memorial Hall at the end of July.

Oswestry and District Society of Artists will hold its week-long show from July 28.

One section of the show will be dedicated to postcard art.

Carol James from the society said this year the organisation had attracted many new members who had been taking part in packed workshops since the beginning of the year.

"Their work will be reflected in the summer exhibition, making it one of the most exciting for a number of years," she said.

The art exhibition is free to visitors and refreshments available will be available.

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Elf - Chloe Davies

Elf Chloe back with new project

SHE took a community by storm last year, turning into a real-life 'elf on the shelf' while raising money for hampers for a community hospital.

Now Chloe the Elf, better known as 18-year-old Chloe Davies is back to raise money for a different cause.

The teenager from Chirk, near Oswestry, turned the craze of 'elf on the shelf' into a life-sized version last year, when she began taking photographs dressed as an elf in places around the area.

She posted them on social media and for every like the photos gener-

ated, she donated 50p to buy a hamper for Chirk Community Hospital.

Likes snowballed and she had money to buy several hampers, which she ended up donating to the hospital.

Now she's back but with a different aim – to raise money to buy

new Christmas lights for the town. Chloe, who works at McDonald's in Chirk will be outside the fast food chain on Saturday and Sunday selling raffle tickets.

She is hoping to raise as much money as possible again, to give the town some new lights.

Building site open again after wartime shell drama

Report by Jonny Drury

WORK has resumed on a building site where a World War Two shell was discovered.

Construction workers on a site being developed for houses off Artillery Road in Park Hall near Oswestry discovered the device on Tuesday last week, with police called to the scene.

Officers spent most of the day at the site, with bomb disposal officers arriving later in the day. The team X-rayed the device, before it was taken away to an open area in Bagley, near Ellesmere, to detonate.

The area where the device was found is not being worked on, and no excavation work is taking place until a specialist has carried out a survey on the area.

Andrew Jones, project manager of the site, said: "We were about to start work on further plots and to dig down when the device was spotted in the bucket of a digger.

"The people on the site weren't too alarmed and the foreman rang me, and then we rang the police and the bomb squad came to deal with it."

"We were told it was a live and well 18 pound shell basically, and it was taken to an open space in Bagley to be detonated.

"We closed the site on Tuesday and part of it has remained closed, and we need to get a specialist to survey the site.

"We won't be carrying out excavations or anything like that."

A number of homes are being built on the former Park Hall army camp site that was closed in the mid 1970s.

It had previously been a base for infantry training and the Royal Artillery Junior Leaders base. Mr Jones said the incident shouldn't push back the build too much.

Her dog, a springer labrador cross went down an embankment, followed by the three year old, but the smaller dog couldn't get back up and was left trapped.

Dog gives crews Tiny problem



A firefighter rescues Tiny after her adventure at Chirk Bank near Oswestry

FIREFIGHTERS were on hand to rescue a small Jack Russell dog who got stuck down a steep 20 foot embankment near Oswestry.

Judith Acun was out walking her dog, and also her mother's dog, a three-year-old Jack Russell called Tiny near Chirk Bank.

Crews used line rescue equipment to free the dog. Judith said: "I felt a bit silly and a bit guilty really by ringing the fire brigade but I didn't really know what else I could do. They were brilliant when they came, calming the dog down and they got her out and she was safe and well."

Judith tried to rescue the dog but had to call Shropshire Fire and Rescue Crews who arrived from Oswestry and Shrewsbury.



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EMERGENCY
24 HOUR
RESPONSE

Blood donor Andrew sees red over lack of sessions

Report by Jonny Drury

A BLOOD donor who has given more than 900 donations in his lifetime may have to quit due to a lack of available sessions.

Andrew Rodgers, from Oswestry, has been donating blood regularly since the 1980s, but in recent years he has found it more difficult to obtain a slot in a session to increase his donations.

So far the 55-year-old has donated 916 times, but he believes he will struggle to continue donating because he is having to pay to travel out of the county.

In recent months he has had to go to Chester, and recently paid £40 to go via train to Birmingham to donate.

He has always loved doing it and giving to others, but now he fears he may have to stop.

He said: "I have given 916 donations to date and it is something I've always enjoyed doing and giving to others."

"To begin with I gave blood plasma because I didn't have enough iron in my blood, but then I gave proper blood."

"Recently it has been too hard to get an appointment, and there is nowhere you can go and walk in and give blood."

"I am unemployed and can't afford to keep going and paying £40 to get to Birmingham to give blood."

"It doesn't seem right that there isn't enough sessions in Shropshire to give blood, it seems crazy really."

In February, it was announced that sessions in Oswestry, Telford, Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury were being cut due to a fall in demand in the amount of blood needed, leaving people struggling to find venues.

Pam Pye of NHS Blood and Transplant said blood use is declining by three to four per cent each year, and the decline in blood use is a global trend due to changes in procedures.

She said: "We have made changes to our blood donation programme across the whole country, not just Shropshire, as the demand for overall blood is reducing. Any closure of sessions in your area is because of this reduction in demand for blood and blood products."

"We appreciate that any changes made to sessions may make it difficult for many people in rural areas to travel to an alternative session and we thank them for the lives they have already saved."

A HEALTH food bar that became one of the first in the region to launch has been put up for sale less than a year after opening.

In late 2017, Tom Brown, owner of The Meat Man in Oswestry and part owner of Active 8 Gym decided to open the Heat Health Food Bar in Willow Street.

The shop has enjoyed success, attracting a number of customers and creating new jobs, as well as signing a contract to prepare post-match meals for Shrewsbury Town.

Despite the success, Mr Brown has decided he can't dedicate the time needed and has regrettably put the shop up for sale – with interest already being expressed.

He said: "We have taken on an extra business which has gone really well, but with The Meat Man as well we just don't have the time to run both businesses."

Mr Brown added: "The health bar has done really well, and it is exactly what we wanted to do, to bring a place like this to Oswestry and the reaction has been fantastic since we opened."

The shop has employed around six staff since its launch in 2017, and they have been offered alternative work at The Meat Man by Mr Brown.



Andrew Rodgers from Oswestry has donated blood more than 900 times

Health food bar up for sale in town

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Council to charge ahead

A NUMBER of electric charging points are set to be installed in a town centre car park.

Only a handful of charging points have been introduced around the county, and calls have repeatedly been made for more to be introduced.

Oswestry Town Council has confirmed charging points will now be introduced in the Central Car Park in the town.

Discussions have been ongoing and the

council will now push forward with the move, and will be speaking to different companies before installing the points.

Chair of the town's markets and town centre committee Paul Milner said: "This will be huge for Oswestry and shows we are moving with the times."

"More electric cars are on the road now but there is a lack of places for them to charge up."

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

If you're a motorist you'll know it's that time of year again when it seems every driver in the United Kingdom descends on Mid Wales and the borders in search of sunshine on the Welsh coast.

And this year seems particularly bad as we experience glorious summer conditions – and the school holidays haven't even started yet.

It's that time of year when you question how one in three travellers could possibly afford the luxury caravans they are pulling or the growing number of ridiculously expensive motorhomes they are driving, that cause lengthy tailbacks on our roads. And it's also that time of year when frustrations start to grow, tempers start to fray at lengthy queues and irresponsible drivers taking agonising risks by overtaking when it simply isn't safe enough to do so.

The UK's motorway network simply isn't coping with the increasing traffic volumes – look at the M54 situation last Sunday during the Cosford Air Show for example. So what chance is there in Mid Wales where a dual carriageway is as rare a sight as hen's teeth.

There are glimmers of light on the horizon though that things might be about to improve. Major disruption at Oswestry's Maesbury Road junction will soon come to an end with the word on the street that we have just a month of suffering to go.

And the massive and long-overdue work to build Newton's by-pass, which is causing frustrating tailbacks going south, is said, and certainly looks, to be ahead of schedule – what a huge difference that will make.

And I'm still not giving up hope that the fight to make vital changes to Welshpool's notorious one-way system isn't a battle about to be won. Changes that should help speed-up the holiday traffic bottleneck which has plagued the town for decades will be welcomed by all – well almost all I suspect XXXX

How ironic was the blazing hot sunshine of the weekend? Welshpool's annual Bob Jones Memorial Air Show would have been held on Sunday, with the weather certainly guaranteeing huge crowds and matching profits. Such a shame that after two years of unhelpful weather the organisers were forced to take a sensible decision to cancel plans for the 2018 event after incurring unsustainable losses. Just a look down the road at Cosford tells you just how important the weather is to the success or failure of such events.



One of the brand new waymarkers



The simple pleasure of a walk with family and friends



Peter and Charlie who love the adventure of walking

WORKING FOR YOU

By Glyn Davies MP

I WRITE this column on Monday morning, before driving down to the House of Commons for a very important week, which could have major implications for our Government and our country.

Yet again, the dominating issue is Brexit, and in particular, the EU Withdrawal Bill. When this article appears, MPs will have voted anything up to 20 times on amendments to this Bill by the House of Lords. At the risk of leaving myself looking silly, I believe the Government will win every vote, sending the EU Withdrawal Bill back to their Lordships to reconsider their position.

What has driven and guided me as I've considered the future status of the United Kingdom in Europe has been the aim of making a success of Brexit. I realise there are UK citizens who have differing views on our future in Europe. In the EU Referendum in 2016, 48% of voters favoured remaining in the EU while 52% of voters backed Leave. So the UK will be leaving in March 2019. Sometimes, I think this stark reality is being overlooked. There are some who have not accepted the public vote in the referendum, either wanting it to be ignored, or another referendum held in an attempt to reverse it. This is not going to happen. The UK is leaving the EU.

But the UK is not 'leaving Europe'. All that is happening is that the UK is recovering our ability to control who moves to our country to study, work and to live; to control our own laws, and to stop handing over billions of pounds for the European Commission to spend as it chooses. The UK will remain a part of Europe – we will want to work as closely and positively as possible with our neighbouring countries, we will need migrants from across the world including from Europe, and we will want to trade with the EU.

Even though I hope that this week MPs will have reversed all of the House of Lords amendments, there will be more important debates and votes to come over the next two to three years. This week has been about giving some legal certainty to the 'Leaving' process. It is in most part a technical bill, which the House of Lords has used as an attempt to overturn the EU Referendum result. Personally, I think their Lordships were out of order. Their job is to put forward reasoned amendments to improve Government legislation, without challenging the primacy of the elected House of Commons. It cannot be otherwise.

Volunteers are working hard to show us the Way

NEIL THOMAS ventures out with local ramblers to learn about the work to restore a famous footpath

WE mount a style in single file, cut through a clearing in a small wooded area and walk up a gentle grassy slope.

At its summit we are rewarded with the most magnificent of panoramas – miles of meadow, grassland and undulating countryside stretch out before us to the distant horizon. Not a road in sight – no lorries kicking up a racket and pumping filthy fumes. We are breathing pure fresh air, the sun on our backs and a gentle breeze caressing our faces. It is exhilarating.

I am out walking in the Shropshire Hills with members of Shrewsbury Ramblers group. We have set off from the Stiperstones and are following a path on the famous Shropshire Way.

This is quintessential Shropshire – rustic, unspoilt, tranquil. The only sound is the twitter of happy birds.

Small wonder that a country walk is one of the nation's most popular pastimes. More and more people, it seems, are reaching for the walking boots and backpacks and setting off for the day to explore the beauty around them – and Shropshire is invariably a magnet for many of them.

This is a hobby that can be shared across a wide age range. My companions today span three generations – Amanda Hartley-Newton who is publicity secretary for Shrewsbury Ramblers group,



Charlie Hartley-Newton, Amanda Hartley-Newton, Audrey Menhinick, chairman of Shrewsbury Ramblers John Newnham who joined our walk at a later time, and Peter Lawrence heading out on the Shropshire Way

her 15 year-old son Charlie, the group's webmaster Audrey Menhinick and her grandson, 14 year-old Peter Lawrence.

The energetic boys, who both love walking regularly with the Ramblers group when they can, ensure that we keep moving. "I like the adventure of walking and like looking at the views," Charlie explains. Peter adds: "I like going out in front and leading the way."

In fact, map in the hand, the young teenager led a family walk over the hills last Christmas.

We are out along a small part of the Shropshire Way for a reason – to celebrate the completion of the first phase of an ambitious project to make our county's very own long distance path more accessible for walkers.

It was Audrey's vision to see the path

properly identified and waymarked along its near 200-mile length. She has spearheaded this ambitious undertaking which involves verifying the map of the entire trail, clearing obstructions and posting bright new orange waymarks featuring a distinctive buzzard logo, to help walkers follow the route.

For those who are not sure, the Shropshire Way main route covers the north and south of the county and forms a 'figure of eight' centring on Shrewsbury.

"The north and south sections are divided into stages, each of which can be walked in a day," Audrey says.

She is chairman of the Shropshire Way Association, an organisation formed to oversee the restoration project and maintain, preserve and

promote this famous footpath. Volunteers from various walking groups have worked with Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership team on the initiative.

Now the southern section, a circular route of 120 miles, has been fully waymarked making it easier for walkers to identify the route.

Financial support has been received from Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust as well as anonymous donors.

Work is currently ongoing on the northern section, which is a circular route of 74 miles.

"The southern section of the Shropshire Way has been established as a priority, since this follows much of the original path as conceived by the Ramblers in 1980," Audrey explains.

"The path links Shrewsbury with Bishop's Castle, Clun, Ludlow, Much Wenlock, Ironbridge and Wellington."

"We have obtained funding to waymark the main route, and to develop a website with downloadable maps and directions.

"This has all been achieved by volunteers."

Amanda explains: "It is hoped that having a clearly waymarked long-distance path will entice even more tourists to Shropshire, especially as there is real enthusiasm amongst keen walkers for the challenge of long distance paths."

The northern section of the Shropshire Way provides a contrast to the Shropshire Hills and takes in canals, meres and mosses. Here you will find Shropshire Mosses Nature Reserve, an important area for birdlife and rare plants.

The north section, a recent addition to the long distance path, incorporates the option of a route to Whitchurch while at Maesbury Marsh there is the opportunity to take a detour to Oswestry and the hill fort on the outskirts.

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Letters

Sickening as Tragedy of the West unravels

IN 1985 the historian John Roberts published the book *The Triumph of the West*.

It is unfortunate that he did not live long enough to publish its sequel *The Tragedy of the West*.

Again, we have the sickening sight of children, women, and men being subjected to a gas attack in Syria.

The West's response – do nothing and concentrate on other global events.

To be fair, Mr Trump has resorted to the

ultimate foreign policy sanction by taking to Twitter to make the usual demands.

Sorry Donald, it will not happen – the Middle East is no longer the West's sphere of influence, and possibly never will be, thanks to a previous foreign policy of indecisiveness (not just from America, but also Britain, NATO, and the EU).

It's Mr Putin's and I suspect he could not possibly care less about Mr Trump's twitter account.

Edmund Burke stated "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". As Brexit, data harvesting, a (former) double agent, and picking a squabble with what can only be described as a formidable opponent now seem to have taken priority, events in Syria now appear to have taken on a secondary, tertiary, or quaternary importance.

MR D N GRANT
Ludlow

Complaints over bus rules in the 1950s



This is a picture from the Geoff Charles Collection at the National Library of Wales and is one of a series from a school bus dispute in Whittington in 1955. According to the NLW's details "a strict application of the three mile rule for free buses led to complaints from parents. A boy attending one school travelled free, but his sister, who attended the girls' school was not entitled."

It's grotesque of Israelis to deny Palestinians a state

SEVERAL months ago members of the United Nations were asked if there should be a Palestinian State.

Of the 145 nations that gave an opinion, 140 of them were in favour.

Only five were against.

The five nations against it included Israel, the USA and three others I have never heard of.

Israel does not want a Palestinian state because it would mean an end to occupation.

The recognition of Palestinians as a people.

It would also prevent the Israelis from building any more illegal settlements on Palestinian land.

I find it grotesque the Israelis who were given part of Palestinian land to form a state should be in any position to deny a state for the Palestinians.

Many Israelis hold similar views to mine but are denied the chance to put them into practice.

GEOFFREY ROSE
Munslow

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
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Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iain.stjohn@shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Anger at huge pay awards by the BBC

BEING a licence payer to the BBC, and for what I get for the amount I pay, it's pretty outrageous to read that the BBC has awarded 500 pay hikes of over 25 per cent.

How on earth do they justify that with repeats and crummy shows?

Out of that 500, 163 got a pay hike of 50 per cent or more, whilst one had their pay doubled. All this as nurses, police and millions of others face pay cuts! Why should people have to pay licence fees to fund grossly inflated salaries?

B ELLIS
Leominster

We woke up to dangers of EU in nick of time

I'M fed up of reading and hearing doom-mongering prattle regarding Brexit.

Much of it is Goebbels-esque propaganda, deliberately intended to dishearten and it's being sewn with the encouragement of the high priests of Remain.

One of them is Tony Blair, a man whose hideous tenure as Prime Minister was a major reason why people voted to leave the EU.

This new campaign of piddle and wind marks the start of Project Fear 2.

It will prove no less futile than its predecessor.

The millions of Europhiles who voted in the referendum for remain might innocently misunderstand the Machiavellian nature and imperialist ambitions of the EU.

But hiding among them is a hardcore cult of mischief makers for whom democracy is a dirty word.

We woke up just in time – and thank God for that.

BOB JENKINS
Stirchley

Call in the professionals – that means Bodie and Doyle

ONLY a few months ago Northampton Council displayed all its bells and whistles as the Communities Secretary Sajid Javid opened their new council offices.

Goodness knows what he heard while he was there or saw on the lavatory walls because he instigated a report into the running of the council which now says it should be scrapped.

The ex-leader of the council who left in 2016 after 10 years seems to be saying that he takes no responsibility for the council's financial collapse. Well, it is good to see the public sector learning so fast from companies in the private sector. It is to be hoped that Shropshire Council's finances are in a better state. We don't want the purchase of those retail units plus consultant fees to come back to bite them and eventually us as council taxpayers.

No-one says running a public sector organisation is easy especially when every decision you take has one eye on those fickle voters and your re-election. But just in case the council faces future problems I decided to investigate what it would take to declare Longnor a stand-alone unity authority.

I immediately elected myself leader for life of this new authority and ordered a gold lame suit and called its first meeting. The first problem we had to tackle was how big my new leather chair needed to be and was the budget of £5,000 enough for a chair fitting my new status. At the end of the seven-hour meeting we could not agree and decided to employ consultants to make a decision.

Having made this decision I disbanded the new authority and thought we had better leave the running of the area to the professionals. Now that is an idea – get Cowley and Bodie and Doyle to enforce it.

PETER STEGGLES
Longnor

Shock over car insurance rise

RECENTLY I got my car insurance renewal notification – and I was shocked at the 25 per cent increase when nothing has changed.

I phoned the company and I was told that as I had called them out during the last 12 months, albeit just to change my tyre as I can't manage to do that myself, that was the reason.

Further, my car just happens to 10 years old on the start date, so that appears to be another reason.

I mentioned I may want to cancel, I was told it would cost me £10 to do that!

What a racket, having to tell the company I don't want them to take my money.

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Politician in call over fur import

AN MP has called for a ban on the importation of animal fur to the UK 20 years after fur farming was made illegal.

Susan Elan Jones, Labour MP for Clwyd South, which covers communities near Oswestry, spoke in the Commons about the issue.

The politician called for new tougher legislation to be put in place to tackle the importation of fur from other countries.

Figures from charity Humane Society International claim that more than £74 million worth of animal fur was imported into the UK in 2017.

A UN database shows around £20m worth of tanned or dressed fur skins – including items such as heads, tails or paws – were imported into the United Kingdom.

Plenty on offer at community event

PENRHOS and District Sports and Mini Show will be held on July 7 at Bron Heulog, Deyther, Llanfair-

Gates open at 1pm and admission for adults and all children of school age is £2.

Primary school children will have a free sandwich, cake and drink.

For information and for schedules people can call (01938) 590335 or (01691) 828339.

Activities on the day of the event will include a bouncy castle and slide, coconut shy, airgun shooting, skittles, pottery shoot out, face painting and games.

There will be mini show, children's fancy dress, sack race, egg and spoon race, inter school netball and football competitions and a tug of war.

Refreshments will be available and a barbecue will be held at 5pm.

Report by James Pugh

BUSINESSES in Shropshire have admitted to feeling the pinch of rocketing fuel prices.

The latest hike has been described as "horrendous" and some firms admit it will also be felt by some of their customers.

The price of petrol at the pump rose by 6p a litre in May – the worst monthly rise for 18 years, the RAC has said.

Unleaded shot up from 123.43p to 129.41p a litre, putting the cost of filling up a 55-litre family car to £71.18.

The increase equalled £3.29 in just one month, data from RAC Fuel Watch shows.

The average price diesel per litre saw a slightly greater monthly increase of 6.12p, from 126.27p to 132.39p, which was the second worst rise since the start of 2000.

The cost of a tank of diesel for a family car became £3.37 more expensive during May at £72.81.

The average prices of both petrol and diesel have gone up every day since April 22, the motoring group said.

Steve Penton, of Pentons haulage firm in Oswestry, said: "It is horrendous. We have survived before and we will have to survive again. Everyone is in the same boat. If it was just us I would be shouting louder about it. It impacts on our fuel escalator. We give customers a basic price, then this can go up or down depending on the price of fuel. We look at the price of fuel every week. We then ring round our suppliers to get the cheapest."

"We are also mindful of fuel consumption and monitor how the vehicles are being driven. We spend a fortune on our vehicles but then you look at the state of the roads."

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Firms say fuel price rises are 'horrendous'

Appeal made for soldiers' families



The charity is urging people to come forward with information

A CHARITY is appealing for families of Second World War soldiers to come forward for a new project.

Last month Oswestry charity Qube launched "Men on the Gates", a website commemorating those who lost their lives in the First World War.

Now the charity wants to research the lives of those in the Second World War, but have said it is only possible with the assistance of local families.

Currently the Ministry of Defence keeps all records private until they are made available in the National Archives.

In order to do that, the closest surviving family member has to give permission for their information to be accessed.

Qube CEO Laurel Roberts said: "It is much more difficult to research WW2 soldiers because the information is not in the public domain."

Qube is asking any relatives of WW2 soldiers whose names are inscribed on Oswestry Memorial Gates, or anyone interested in the Men on the Gates project to pop into Qube, and meet researcher John Davies tomorrow (Friday) between 10am and noon.

Alternatively, call Qube on (01691) 656882.

Police warn drinkers to behave or be banned

A POLICE force has relaunched a campaign that bans punters from pubs, clubs and bars for bad behaviour.

Officers from Dyfed-Powys Police will be working with licensees across the force area as part of the Behave or Be Banned (BOBB) Scheme.

Neighbourhood policing teams across the area will be linking up with businesses to reduce violence and disorder in licensed premises.

Force chief inspector Mark McSweeney said the scheme was effective in curbing violence and anti-social behaviour.

He said: "BOBB is an effective tool to help prevent, reduce and combat alcohol-related offences within communities."

"If anyone is arrested for a crime of violence, disorder or anti-social behaviour in licensed premises, or after leaving a licensed establishment in the scheme, they will be banned from not just that licensed premises, but all licensed premises that display the Behave or Be Banned sign within the area. The message is simple – Behave or Be Banned."

"In addition, if someone is a persistent nuisance for a licensee but their behaviour doesn't merit arrest, licensees can also put them forward to receive a ban from all licensed premises."

"BOBB works."

"It is not uncommon to see people being more concerned about whether they can get into a pub with their friends than they are about being arrested."

"Licensees will not tolerate anti-social behaviour in their premises and BOBB keeps such people out, making it safer and more enjoyable for everyone else."

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History group set for Herefordshire

THE Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group is gearing up for a visit to Herefordshire.

The all-day trip is on July 14 when a guided tour of the unique Kilpeck Church and its famous carvings will be followed by an optional lunch at the Kilpeck Inn.

In the afternoon, the coach will go on to Hereford where there will be a guided tour of the cathedral and the new exhibition centre containing the chained library and the world famous Mappa Mundi.

The coach departs Oak Street Car Park at 8am, returning at 6.30pm. Tickets are £25. To book a place contact Dave Stirling on (01691) 688503 or email stirlings@waitrose.com

Full details of Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group's lectures and visits can be obtained from Oswestry Library, the group's website at oswestry.histarch.uk, by phoning the Secretary on 01691 661793 or by emailing obagh@histarch.uk

Members of flower club in garden trip

THE Oswestry and Borders Flower Club will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, when members will take a trip to a garden near Llanrhedad.

The National Garden Society trip is to 'Bryn y Llidiart', Cefn Coch, the home of Dr John and Christine Scott.

Entry costs £8 to include tea and cake.

More information is available from Eleanor Davies on (01691) 657763 and visitors and new members are welcome.

In July the group will be back at its usual venue, Morda Village Hall. It meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. In May members enjoyed a talk and demonstration by Helen Raymond Clarke.



One of Andrew Evans's pictures of farmland which is on display in Oswestry during June

Andrew picks up paintbrush again

AN artist who rediscovered painting more 30 years after he was put off by college, has put his work in an exhibition in Oswestry.

Andrew Evans, 64, was a talented young painter who went to art college in the 1970s to improve his skills.

"But all they seemed to be interested in was conceptual art – large white rooms with something strange

Report by Sue Austin

in them," he said. "It completely put me off and I got a job in the Post Office."

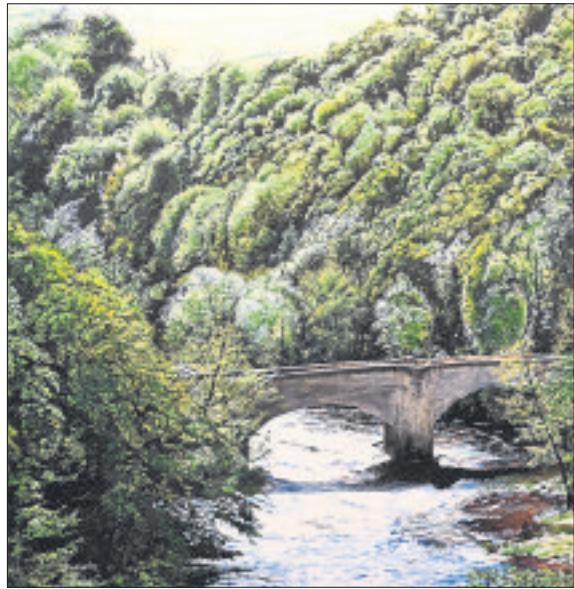
It wasn't until he left the Post Office that he picked up a brush again about 15 years ago and has found a new love for painting.

His exhibition is on at the Oswestry Visitor and Exhibition Centre until the end of June and includes landscapes and other subjects.

He said: "I will often go for a walk and take photos of things that I see. I might then do a painting of the whole scene or use parts in a piece of art. I prefer paintings to photographs, it helps to get a real feel for the place.

"I love Oswestry, it's a wonderful place to visit and find subjects for paintings." Mr Evans lives near Ruabon and has never learnt to drive.

"I had to bring the paintings for the exhibition down on the bus, it was a bit of an operation getting them all here," he said.



A painting of Pont Bridge, seen from the Pontcysylite aqueduct



Visitor Simon Adams admires the work on show in Oswestry

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Racecourse put in focus

JOHN Pinfold will give a talk on Llanymynech Racecourse at the latest meeting of Llanymynech History Society next week.

John is a recognised authority on the history of horse racing, producing several books and presentations on the subject.

He has taken up the challenge to recount his findings on Llanymynech racecourse.

He will talk at the meeting on Monday at 7.30pm in Llanymynech Presbyterian Church Hall.

Admission is £3 including refreshments. For more information call (01691) 830094.

Brewery backs forces charity

A BREWERY has pledged to pay five pence from every pint of its new summer brew sold to an armed forces charity.

Monty's Brewery, based in Montgomery, launched its new brew 'Desert Rats', at its visitor centre in the town.

Russ Honeyman, commercial director at the brewery, has pledged five pence from every pint to go to the SSAFA, the armed forces formally known as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.

Mr Honeyman, said: "We always look forward to bringing out Desert Rats. It has a great following and of course as an ex-RAF person myself, it is great to donate to this worthwhile charity.

"All ages of people are helped by SSAFA."

Public smoking ban to be extended in Wales

Report by Jonny Drury

WALES is set to become the first country in the UK to extend its smoking ban to outdoor areas in hospital grounds, school grounds and playgrounds.

Many hospitals already have no smoking policies, but a new legislation passed by AMs last year has now been ratified and the ban will come into force next summer.

The new laws will make it illegal to smoke in those areas, and fines will be issued to smokers who break the rules.

Powys Teaching Health Board already has bans on some hospital grounds in the region, but has welcomed the move to make it illegal as of next summer.

Stuart Bourne, interim director of public health for the organisation said: "There is clear evidence of the harm from second-hand smoke, as well as the harmful effects of normalising smoking for children and young people.

"Here in Powys we have already taken significant steps to discourage smoking on hospital grounds, and we are delighted that this will be strengthened further as Wales is set to be the first country in the UK to extend its smoking ban to outdoor areas.

Local schools have also championed smoke-free play areas for children. As a result of this new legislation, hospital grounds, school grounds and playgrounds are all due to become smoke-free by summer 2019."

Politician visits credit union group



Russell George AM with Cambrian Credit Union representatives

A POLITICIAN has visited a credit union to learn how it is reaching more people in north Powys.

Cambrian Credit Union operates out of libraries in Welshpool and Newtown and offers services including instant access adult and junior savings accounts, personal loans and the Engage Pre-Paid Card.

It provided almost 3,000 small loans to people across north and mid Wales in the last financial year.

Russell George, Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, visited credit union staff to learn more about how they now are able to reach a larger number of people.

He said: "With the support of Powys County Council, they are now operating from libraries in Welshpool and Newtown, allowing them to serve more people at a reduced cost. I hope that this will allow the Cambrian Credit Union to more easily serve the dispersed population of rural mid and north Wales. This is to be welcomed following recent closures of high street banks in rural areas of North Powys."

IT sessions available to get people back to work

FREE IT training sessions are being offered in Powys to residents aged over 54 to help them get back in to work.

The free one-to-one sessions in basic ICT skills and support to undertake a short 'Introduction to Health & Safety at Work' course are being provided by Workways+ in libraries across Powys.

North Powys support officer Janet Davies said: "The sessions are being held in the libraries across Powys and there is already a great deal of interest in them."

She added: "Delivering them in libraries really works too because they have the equipment available we need, the staff here are really helpful and people can come back and practice on the computers again in their own time."

Workways+ Powys is a project that gives free, individual and tailored support to help people into employment or self-employment.

It's open to people across Powys who are aged 54 and older and who are not currently working or registered unemployed.

Delivered by Prime Cymru and funded by the European Social Fund and Powys County Council, it provides free one-to-one help with online and traditional job-seeking, interview skills, CV writing, sourcing trial work placements, training and guidance in setting up in business.

People or those who know someone who may like to get involved should search for Workways+ Powys on Facebook for more information.

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Author Natalie Cumming from Pant near Oswestry with her book



Her aunt Rosa who survived both Auschwitz and Belsen



Natalie's father Sydney Israel Levinsky with the family heirloom

A story of music and survival

A BOOK charting the incredible true story of one family's survival through the wars, inspired by a treasured musical instrument, has finally been published after a long battle.

Natalie Cumming, now 80, is a former City merchant banker who was named a Freeman of the City of London.

She now lives in Pant near Oswestry with her husband David and recently, after 20 years of struggling to get someone to publish

Report by Jonny Drury

her family's tale, she finally saw the novel, *The Fiddle*, published. Released last month, it tells how her family survived as they fled the Bolsheviks across Russia, before attempting to escape the Nazis during the Second World War.

She said: "I was told these stories by my aunt when I was about nine or 10 and when she died it was my father and I who always wanted to write a book on it."

"I feel quite proud to have it out there. It took so long to get published because people

said you needed an agent and other things, before Michael Terence publishing agreed to publish it.

"It also feels good to keep stories like this out there, because there are some people who said these things didn't happen in these camps. And it was said after the war there needed to be films and books to show that these things did happen."

The true story is described as 'tracing a precious violin across landscapes devastated by war and terror, to safety and restoration in 21st century Britain'. Mrs Cumming's grandfather, Abraham, played the violin and he and his family fled the Bolsheviks in 1917, from St. Petersburg to Odessa. Abraham's skill on the instrument earned them food and lodgings, as they struggled on foot through the freezing Russian winter. The violin was passed to Rosa, his daughter and Mrs Cumming's aunt, who was playing in the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra when she was arrested by the Nazis in 1938.

She spent time in Auschwitz and was moved to Belsen for five months, before testifying at the Nuremberg Trials, exposing the horrors of the Nazi death camps. She suffered horrific abuse at the hands of the Nazis, and only survived because of her musical talent.

Mrs Cumming's father, Sydney Israel Levinsky, then inherited the instrument and became a celebrated musician who entertained troops. The violin is now sitting in the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey.

Asked whether she would write a sequel, she said: "My son asked me that just the other day, and if I did it would be about my family coming over to Britain."

"But I don't know a lot about that so it would probably have to be fiction."

On July 11, Mrs Cumming will be giving a book signing and a talk at Oswestry Library. The book is available on Amazon.

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12 Calls for probe on 12 baby death cases

A NHS trust at the centre of a review into baby deaths has recommended a new independent inquiry should examine 12 maternity cases.

An independent review into baby deaths at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust was launched last year at the request of Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt.

It came amid claims of a "cluster" of nine deaths between September 2014 and May 2016, of which seven were avoidable, according to inquests.

The independent review is looking at historic investigations into a number of cases which relate to newborn, infant and maternal deaths raised in a family's letter to the Health Secretary in December 2016.

The announcement of the investigation in April 2017, led to 16 families coming forward with questions about the care they received.

An additional 24 cases were put forward for review by the independent midwife leading the NHS Improvement review.

The cases covered a 19-year period. Of these, 12 have been found to need further examination.

These cases will have a separate independent review if the families give their permission.

Reports would be published later this year.

Fresh move to encourage breastfeeding

NEW plans to encourage and support breastfeeding have been unveiled by the Welsh Government.

The seven health boards will appoint an official to ensure best practices are followed and train volunteers.

Health Secretary Vaughan Gething announced the proposals after recommendations were made by an expert group that he set up.

He said breastfeeding could be "beneficial for the health and development of both mother and baby".

Research found about 59 per cent of mothers intended to breastfeed, but there were large variations between ages and locations.

The volunteers will give mothers advice, while trainee midwives will take weekly support sessions for women having problems with feeding.

Regional variations in breastfeeding swung from 50 per cent in the Cwm Taf health board area to 84 per cent in Powys.

Of under 16s, 23 per cent intended to breast feed, rising to 57 per cent of 25 to 29-year-olds and 79 per cent of those aged 45 and over.

An action plan will now be drawn up, and every health board will appoint a "strategic infant feeding lead".

Mr Gething said: "I recognise the importance of having knowledgeable support available for women who wish to breastfeed." Work on implementing the plan is due to begin in July.

Trusts merger is given go-ahead

THE merger of two NHS trusts has been approved by regulators, creating one of the country's largest integrated community health and social care organisations.

South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (SSSFT) and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust (SSOPT) have joined together to become Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT).

The merger brings together more than 8,500 staff and two nationally recognised healthcare providers, with the aim of improving access to physical and mental health, learning disability and social care services for patients and service users across Staffordshire and Shropshire.

MPFT's ambition is to have one care plan for patients covering their physical and mental health and social care needs, reducing unnecessary duplication and enabling better care co-ordination to make it less confusing for patients when they are at their most vulnerable.

No frontline staff are affected by the merger.

Out-of-hours services are under increasing strain because of lack of doctors, report says

OUT-OF-HOURS GP services in Powys and across Wales are under strain with not enough GPs available to deliver the service, according to a new report.

The information published by the Board of Community Health Councils has recommended new ways need to be found to deliver out-of-hours medical care in all seven community health council areas in Wales.

Research shows that the service is fragile and under strain across the country.

The research says the problems are due to a number of reasons including a lack of GPs and an increase in demand for out-of-hours services.

The problems have also occurred in Powys, and with the future of Shropdoc also under-

Report by Jonny Drury

tain, County Councillor Joy Jones is calling for more to be done to improve the out-of-hours provision.

She said: "Because of where we are and the access we have to hospitals, people are having to travel a long way out of hours to get treatment.

Important

"Out-of-hours services are vitally important in Powys.

"I believe the Welsh Government should be doing more to recruit GPs not just for the out-of-hours service, but also in general."

"There needs to be incentives to bring them here and help the problem."

The report states that community health councils want the government and the NHS to work together to come up with a solution for the problem.

Part of this will include engaging with people about the future of GP out-of-hours services to find out what is important to them.

Mutale Merrill, chair of the board of Community Health Councils (CHCs), added: "Health boards have specifically informed CHCs about their need to take urgent action when they are unable to provide a normal service."

"CHCs are concerned that sometimes the actions taken to address one problem can have a negative impact on other services and other ge-

ographical areas. We believe the solution lies in the NHS in Wales working together to deliver GP out-of-hours services in a way that responds to what's important to people."

Councillor Jones is also eagerly awaiting the outcome of the Shropdoc out-of-hours service situation, with a decision set to be made in June about who will run the service.

Provided

A further service is also set to be provided in Powys through a 111 number, which people can call for information and be put either through to out-of-hours services or NHS direct.

Councillor Jones added: "Out-of-hours service is so important here in Powys, and keeping Shropdoc and that level of service is vital."

Future Fit plans will not be scrapped despite Labour calls

Report by Lisa O'Brien

HEALTH bosses will not scrap the Future Fit hospital shake-up consultation after Labour Party officials in the region claimed the planned changes do not offer a sustainable future.

In an open letter to Dr Simon Freeman, accountable officer at Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and David Evans, chief officer at Telford & Wrekin CCG, head of Labour branches in Shropshire and Mid Wales called for the Future Fit process to be scrapped.

They have called the Future Fit process "nothing more than a cost cutting exercise", that will reduce key services.

Addressing the claims, Dr Julian Povey, chair of Shropshire CCG said he was aware of the views of the Labour Party and Dr Laura Davies, parliamentary candidate for Shrewsbury and Atcham.

He said: "These plans are not going to be scrapped, it is ongoing."

"I am aware of Laura Davies's views on this and the parties' views on this, but isn't going to be scrapped."

Chance

Dr Povey added: "This is a chance to have tens of millions of pounds invested in services in the county."

"Currently we have two buildings, one older than the other, that are decaying and they will receive investments."

"It isn't possible to have £800 million to have two A&E departments with 40 doctors in. There isn't a viable alternative to these plans."

In the open letter, the Labour Party officials have said the consultation is designed to divide communities by forcing them to choose between two much-needed hospitals.

Shropshire CCG's preferred option is to have an emergency department at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, and under that model Telford's Princess Royal Hospital would take responsibility for providing planned care.

Both hospitals would house urgent care centres, which would deal with most walk-in patient cases.

Dr Freeman said: "These aren't plans that have been put together to leave people worse off."

"They have been put together but experts, and it is time to trust the experts."

Old pals put paralympic archer in the picture



Michael Hughes who presented Mikey Hall from St Martins near Oswestry with the painting alongside Paul Wood

PARALYMPIC archer Mikey Hall will be in hospital for another six months, after already being there for the best part of a year.

But that didn't stop his friends from the Shropshire Yeomanry Comrades Association presenting him with a painting at Salford Royal Hospital.

Mikey, from St Martins near Oswestry, was put into an induced coma after being rushed into hospital for emergency surgery. His sud-

den illness came just days before the Paralympic star was set to compete in the Czech Republic.

Michael Hughes, who presented the painting alongside Paul Wood, said it was an honour to present Mikey with the painting.

"A year ago he started to become ill," Michael said. "He was at Lilleshall training. He was in Royal Shrewsbury Hospital for eight months, but they couldn't heal him. Since the

end of January he's been moved to Royal Salford in Manchester."

Mr Hughes said the painting was to celebrate Mikey's military past. "The print is showing the Shropshire Yeomanry on horseback at their summer camp in the 1800s," he said.

"The picture shows The Wrekin to the rear." From 1992 to 1995, Mikey was a member of the Shropshire Yeomanry Squadron of The Queen's Own Mercian Yeomanry.

'False claims' on hospital shake-up are criticised

HEALTH bosses have hit out at campaigners for putting out "false" claims about the Future Fit hospital shake-up plans.

They urged the public to go along to public events and find out the "proper" information amid calls for the consultation process to be scrapped.

At pop-up events campaigners against the Future Fit process have been handing out flyers.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group's accountable officer Simon Freeman believes

misinformation is being put out to the public and he is inviting people to go along to events to get the correct information.

He said: "This is an opportunity to get the right information," he said.

"There is information which at times are falsehoods put out there."

"To these campaign groups I would say this is about better care for patients, better outcomes, better beds and about better staff."

"We have over £300 million being invested and what could possibly be better than that?"

There has been misinformation and it is up to the people to come along to see themselves what is current.

"I saw one message that said 10 reasons why Future Fit will kill you."

"That is just completely untrue, and it doesn't help with allowing people to understand the correct information."

I would say come along with an open mind, and for them to make their own mind up." Ever since the preferred option was announced, the Future Fit scheme has come under scrutiny.

After numerous delays to the consultation it finally got under way and will now run until September. In total there will be around 70 pop-up events, and eight market place events where the public can chat with clinicians and health bosses.

Health bosses will then conduct a mid review

in July to gauge how the consultation is going and what questions have been asked.

Mr Freeman added: "We want people to submit as many responses as possible, so we can get a balanced set of responses."

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Search and rescue team makes appeal for more donations

A VOLUNTARY organisation is in need of donations to help keep its services running.

West Mercia Search and Rescue is appealing to the public for some much-needed donations, to help keep the charity operational.

The team are often called upon by the police and fire services and are specially trained to search for missing vulnerable people, as well as being water trained to help rescue people from floods and rivers.

Matt Weaver is the team's search manager and first responder.

He said that the search and rescue team have received six calls in the last two weeks alone and that the growing demand for their services has hit the budget hard.

He said: "Ultimately we go looking for missing people in our community that don't realise they're in danger."

"This might be people who are suffering from dementia and go wandering and disappear into the countryside, we also go looking for people who don't want to be found for whatever reason."

"We also get called upon by the police, which then mobilises our team which comes from all three counties to one central point."

The highly trained team operate across Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

There are around 80 volunteers working for West Mercia Search and Rescue with plans to expand this to 100 by the end of 2018.

Matt, who has dedicated around 300 hours so far this year, explained that the biggest costs are fuel, insurance and maintaining kit as well as a lot of funding going towards dispensable

items such as printer ink for maps. He added: "Our volunteers have full time jobs and families, so being a volunteer with us is a big commitment."

"To keep us operational and to be able to respond to anything within the three counties, we need about £40,000 a year. We do get some support from the PCC which is amounts to £17,000 a year, which helps us cover our rent and insurance for our kit."

To find out more people can visit westmerciasar.org.uk.

Officer on the run every day



Sally Dean with her daughter Eadie, who receives treatment at the Movement Centre

A POLICE officer whose daughter suffers with low muscle tone and receives treatment in Shropshire went running every day in May – to raise money for a boy she has never met.

The young boy she helped also suffers with a muscle condition.

Mother of three Sally Dean dedicated every day of the month to run and raise money for the youngster in Grimsby, after striking up a friendship with his mother.

Sally's daughter Eadie, who is two, has additional needs.

She receives help and treatment from The Movement Centre which is based in the grounds of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen.

The treatment is funded through the county's Clinical Commissioning Group.

However the boy from Grimsby, who is called Carter, has cerebral palsy and his mother Clare is trying to raise £6,000 for a standing frame for him as health bosses in that area haven't funded it.

Through an online group Sally discovered Carter's story and it struck a chord with her, as both he and Eadie are twins.

She decided to run every day in May and has so far raised £1,070.

She is hoping to add to the total to go towards a walking frame for the youngster.

The police officer said she is grateful and thankful that her daughter can benefit from funded treatment at the Movement Centre.

And when she found out another child hasn't been so lucky she wanted to lend a hand.

She said: "Eadie suffers with low muscle tone but there isn't a diagnosis for it.

"She uses the frame and the support we get from the hospital and the service there is fantastic and we are very lucky."

"However some others like Carter aren't.

Friendship

"I just saw the story on Facebook and got chatting with his mother and struck up a friendship, and I decided to do this."

"It has a bit of a ring to it and so far I've almost raised £1,100 which is great."

With May now at an end Sally has more fundraising events in the pipeline.

She has asked for people not to buy presents for her daughter's birthday, and instead donate to Carter's cause.

She added: "We're looking at holding another event in Staffordshire, and for Eadie's birthday we have asked for donations to help Carter."

"We haven't met Carter or his mother yet, so we are hoping we will get to meet them at some point."

Healthwatch group in plea for volunteers

HEALTHWATCH Shropshire is looking for volunteers to help the organisation reach more people so that they can help to shape the health and social care services that are provided locally.

Bosses at the organisation say volunteers are key to the work of healthwatch and they are valuable in helping to make a difference for communities and to services.

No previous experience is needed.

Volunteers just need good listening and communication skills and to be committed to helping people from all backgrounds to have a voice.

Jane-Randall-Smith, chief officer of Healthwatch Shropshire, said: "Healthwatch is all about local people being able to influence the delivery and design of health and social care services where they live."

"It's about getting out into the community to listen to people's experiences and sharing this information with those who provide the services to encourage change and improvement."

"Volunteering can be great fun and can provide satisfaction, fulfilment and enjoyable experiences."

Voluntary roles at Healthwatch Shropshire give people the opportunity to meet new people, use and develop existing skills and knowledge, access training and support while making a difference in their local community.

Chris Knight, Healthwatch Shropshire volunteer, said: "As an Enter and View Authorised Representative, I believe that an important way to improve the quality of service in health and social care is to listen and relay back to providers and commissioners the opinions of those individuals

Lottery funded projects are helping village communities

A LOTTERY funded scheme to help three villages near Oswestry has launched a host of projects to help everyone from children to pensioners.

The Big Local Three Parishes was given £1 million by the National Lottery to invest in the community, one of 149 such enterprises across the UK.

It covers the villages of Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen and the surrounding countryside.

Chair of the scheme Nick Heard said there had been great progress in helping the local community.

He said: "We are doing well in comparison to some of the 149 Big Local projects around England."

A 2018 newsletter has been sent to households in the area giving more information about the major projects such as village volunteering and the school saver clubs, which sees children

make regular savings to help them understand the value of money.

The newsletter also outlines more recent developments including the My Money Matters project.

Three Parishes Big Local is working with Citizens Advice Shropshire on a three-year project that will help the residents of Weston Rhyn, St Martins and Gobowen manage their household finances.

Blooming great ideas are coming together

OSWESTRY has stepped up its in bloom efforts as it attempts to be crowned best in Britain.

The Oswestry in Bloom committee has taken more than a dozen gold awards in the regional competition but last year took the ultimate accolade as overall winner in the Heart of England large town category.

This summer it will see the national judges as well as regional, arrive in the town to see how Oswestry shapes up against rivals, Beverley, Penrith, Ballymena, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Bury St Edmunds, Congleton, Colwyn Bay and Perth.

It is the first time the town, one of the smallest in the category, had been named overall winner for the category.

Chairman of the Oswestry in Bloom committee Betty Gull said it means a shift of focus for the in bloom volunteers. In previous years community ventures have featured heavily in the portfolio given to judges.

She said: "The emphasis is not so much on community initiatives as it is in the Heart of England competition but much more horticultural in the national competition."

"This will be a great adventure for Oswestry and we need to get the community on board, whether that is volunteering to join the committee or by doing their bit for the judges' visit."

"If anyone can give up just a little of their time to get involved we would be very grateful."

"We need community groups to look after their green spaces. We would also like businesses to get involved in the town council's hanging basket scheme and individuals to ensure their front gardens are looking their best."

One business already on board is TG Builders' Merchants which donated pebbles as part of the move to tidy up the area around the Central Car Park public toilets.

Committee members planted shrubs and used the pebbles to give a decorative finish.

Anyone that can volunteer for the in bloom effort can contact the town council offices at the Guildhall in Oswestry or on (01691) 680222.

Housing firm donates £1k to specialist centre

A GOBOWEN charity that helps children with disabilities which affect their movement has received a donation from a regional builder to help it buy sensory equipment.

The Movement Centre received £1,000 from Persimmon Homes West Midlands, based in Wolverhampton, through its Community Champions scheme.

The builder chose the group to benefit from its monthly match-funded donation.

The centre, based in the grounds of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, provides Targeted Training which helps children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities that affect movement. Movement Centre spokesman Curtis Langley said: "Targeted Training can help children gain head control, so they interact with their family, help develop the skills needed to sit unaided, so that they can play with their friends, and also enable them to learn to walk and be far more independent. As a specialist therapy, it sadly sits outside of the remit for standard NHS funding. This means the centre needs charitable support to continue and we are grateful to Persimmon Homes for their donation."

"We are currently building up our portfolio of sensory equipment as many of our children have complex needs and the equipment can create a calming atmosphere."

Businesses are issued with a waste reminder

BUSINESSES in Powys are being reminded of their obligations to dispose of rubbish properly after a shop was fined for failing to provide documents to remove waste.

Powys County Council's waste awareness and enforcement team has issued the reminder after a Llanidloes shop was issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice for failing to produce the relevant documentation for the removal of its trade waste.

The fixed penalty notice was issued after complaints had been received about black bags building up in a private court yard in the town.

A waste enforcement officer investigated and carried out checks on local businesses in the immediate area.

The businesses were requested to produce waste transfer notes to show where their waste were being taken. A fixed penalty notice was issued which has already been paid.

Councillor Phyl Davies, cabinet member for recycling and waste, said: "We want local business to thrive in Powys but to do this we need to ensure that all businesses are complying with the law."

"It is vital that all businesses are aware of their legal responsibilities surrounding proper storage, transportation and disposal of controlled waste."

Annual awards scheme launched

BUSINESSES from across Powys have gathered to launch the county's premier business awards.

The annual Powys Business Awards, which began in 2009, were launched with sponsors, judges and past finalists attending the launch event.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, leader of Powys County Council, said: "The Powys Business Awards have gone from strength to strength since they were launched and I'm delighted that Powys County Council continues to support them."

"The Powys Business Awards are now an important date in the business calendar and I would urge all businesses in the county to enter this year's awards. They are an excellent way of highlighting the range and expertise of the county's businesses."

This year sees a range of new categories added to recognise the diverse mix of business sectors located within the county including small business growth, best tourism, mentor of the year in hospitality and lifestyle and technology and innovation.

Application forms are now available for the 2018 Powys Business Awards, which will culminate in a black-tie dinner being held on September 28.

THE manufacturing sector in the West Midlands has shrunk by nearly 75,000 jobs over the last decade.

Research by the GMB union showed the steep decline in British manufacturing jobs nationwide, with almost 600,000 less now than in 2007.

And the West Midlands is one of the worst hit, losing 74,700 jobs over the period – a fall of 18 per cent.

Only the north west has lost more manufacturing jobs, with that region seeing a decline of 93,500.

The figures show that in 2007, there were 3.5 million permanent and temporary manufacturing jobs across the country, making up more than 12 per cent of Britain's workforce.

But by the end of 2016 that figure had dropped to 2.9 million, or 9.2 per cent of the total.

Jude Brimble, GMB national secretary for manufacturing, said: "We are at a critical crossroads in UK manufacturing."

"The right support for our manufacturing sector would accelerate growth, address the skills gap and provide a much-needed boost to technology, production and exports."

"A robust manufacturing base post-Brexit is vital for the UK economy, workers and local communities."

Politician will be holding more surgeries

A POLITICIAN is holding an additional round of summer surgeries to offer help and support to constituents.

Ken Skates, Assembly Member for Clwyd South, which covers Chirk and Llangollen near Oswestry, holds monthly advice sessions with MP for the area, Susan Elan Jones.

He has now organised three more which include one at his office at The Malthouse in Llangollen on July 6.

He has urged people to contact him to book an appointment, and said: "Surgeries are a vital part of my diary and provide a valuable opportunity to sit down face-to-face with constituents and discuss all manner of things and to offer support and advice."

"I want to make sure my constituents have plenty of opportunity to come and talk to me over the summer."

"My regular surgeries with Susan are drop-in, but by making these additional surgeries by appointment it means that anything which is within Susan's remit and not mine, non-devolved issues such as crime and social security, can be referred to her office and looked into."

"It also gives me the opportunity to do any initial research or work in advance which might help when I sit down with the constituent."

A session will also take place at Penley's Rainbow Centre on August 4 and to book call (01978) 869058.

Patrols to target shed burglaries

POLICE have stepped up patrols following a large spike in burglaries in the Oswestry area.

Officers have been concentrating on residential areas late at night to deter raiders targeting properties.

They are appealing to residents to ensure sheds and garages are secure and equipment inside is postcode marked.

High value power and garden tools, including lawnmowers, have been stolen in recent break-ins.

Police Inspector Tracy Ryan said: "We are gathering information and are working closely with our neighbouring policing areas to investigate incidents and disrupt offenders."

"We have also worked with our response officers, Special Constabulary colleagues and specialist teams to conduct patrols late evening and overnight to address any suspicious activity involving people and vehicles."

Police officers say they want householders to mark items with their postcodes to make any stolen items more difficult to sell on.

Pressure grows on justice bosses to look again at controversial changes to court system

Report by Dominic Robertson

PRESSURE is growing on the Ministry of Justice to scrap controversial changes to court hearings, described by solicitors in Shropshire as a system "in tatters".

Solicitors, police and magistrates have criticised the changes which mean all remand hearings for the region have moved to Kidderminster Magistrates Court.

Now legal experts say a u-turn must happen following a series of problems that have thrown the new system into chaos. New problems were revealed following changes that mean any defendant in custody must be taken to Kidderminster rather than appear in Telford.

John MacMillan of Wright MacMillan Bennett Solicitors in Telford condemned the "stupidity" of the new system after revealing one case he

sisted the new arrangements, introduced in April, were working well. But the outcry has been so widespread that it is understood action may be taken after a review. Mr MacMillan said: "The stupid system is in tatters. It is falling apart and it is obvious to everyone it is failing apart. We hope common sense will prevail. There was going to be a review of the policy and we think that may take place this month."

Police have criticised the changes, suggesting officers have been left to "babysit" offenders, with one force source claiming that officers have had to take time to drive legal papers to Kidderminster from Shropshire.

Under the changes, anyone remanded in custody or who hands themselves in on a warrant or breach of bail, must have their case heard

in Kidderminster rather than Telford. Because there is only one van that takes prisoners to Kidderminster for the hearings, people who surrender after about 7.30am are held in a cell until the next day. The region's police and crime commissioner has described the changes as having a "negative impact" on police time and resources.

A HMCTS spokesman confirmed a meeting will take place, adding: "It's always been our intention to review the changes, how these changes are working and an event later this month will provide key agencies and professional court users with the opportunity to share their views. We continue to work with court users and other partners to resolve any concerns raised."

Area's lottery players enjoy big wins on a monthly basis

Report by Mark Andrews

SOMEbody in the Shropshire area scoops a major prize in the National Lottery every month, according to new figures.

The lottery has created 5,000 millionaires since its launch in 1994, according to operator Camelot.

And over that time 300 people living within the Telford, Shrewsbury and Llandrindod Wells postcode area have landed big wins of £50,000 or more, equating to just over one big winner a month.

The figures also revealed that when it came to spending lottery winnings, Shropshire folk favoured experiences and travel over luxury items.

A survey into how lottery winning was spent revealed that 55 per cent of people in the area would give priority to spending their winnings on life-enhancing events, compared to just 12 per cent for material items.

Shropshire also topped the charts for the largest number of people who identified theatre as the experience they would most like to spend their winnings on.

Wealth

According to the figures 28.5 per cent said they would use their wealth to see more shows.

The survey revealed that buying a new home would be the top priority with most winners.

That is followed by helping out their family and friends.

Almost half of winners said they found that sharing their wins with others gave them the most happiness.

Andy Carter, senior winners adviser for the lottery, said: "After the shock and excitement, nearly all winners' first question is how they can look after their nearest and dearest."

Mr Carter added: "In many cases, this seems to bring the winners even greater joy than thinking about how they can treat themselves."

Big Shropshire winners include Sue and James Schofield of Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, who celebrated the new year in 2013 with a £1 million win in the EuroMillions jackpot, and Robin and Christine Kiddle who scooped nearly £6.3 million.

Staff at the Palethorpe meat plant in Market Drayton seem to be particularly lucky, with their syndicate landing two huge wins within the space of 10 years.

In 2006 they won £6.3 million, and followed up with a win of £303,465 in 2016.

League raises £7,500 for new heart monitors



League of Friends representatives and nursing and care staff from the orthopaedic hospital at the presentation of the new cardiac monitors

THE league of friends group at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has raised £7,500 to buy new cardiac monitors to benefit patients with neuromuscular disorders.

The monitors will help reduce the number of visits patients will have to make to hospital.

Previously they would have to go to the hospital if their heart needed to be monitored over a 24-hour period.

The neuromuscular department within the

hospital is one of 10 in the UK which offers specialist advice and follow-up for both adult and paediatric patients with inherited neuromuscular disorders.

Victoria Sugden, the league's charity director, said: "We're delighted to have supported the purchase of these important pieces of equipment that makes it easier for the team at RJAH to care for and monitor patients with long term requirements."

In 2016 the team received the Muscle Centre Award for Clinical Excellence in recognition of the quality of care and research facilities that are provided at the hospital.

Dr Tracey Willis, lead consultant for neuromuscular services, added: "We are so grateful to the League of Friends for supporting us and our patients as this will help to lessen the burden of clinical visits and help us to run one stop shop appointments."

Call is made to name bypass after social reformer

A TOWN council is urging the Welsh Government to name a new multi-million pound bypass after one of the region's most famous sons.

It is anticipated that the Newtown Bypass, which is being built by Alun Griffiths Contractors at a cost of more than £65 million, will be completed in the spring, however it could be sooner if work gets ahead of schedule.

With the end date in sight, Newtown Town Council has launched a bid to have the new bypass named the Ffordd Robert Owen Way.

Robert Owen was a Welsh textile manufacturer and a social reformer who inspired the foundation of the co-operative movement.

A motion was passed at a recent meeting of the town council to urge the government to name the bypass after Mr Owen and calls have been made for AM Russell George and Powys County Council to back the move.

Councillor David Selby put the motion forward and believes it would be fitting to name the largest change to the town's transport system in decades after the social reformer.

He said: "The bypass is the largest infrastructure project since the development board works over 40 years ago.

"This time next year we should start to see the reduction in through traffic, particularly lorries and the residents of New Road, Pool Road and Llanidloes Road should see the reduction in fumes and pollution.

"This new road is biggest change to our town's transport since the arrival of the canal and the railway in the 19th century.

"If important buildings, railway engines and

even bridges can have a name than this magnificent engineering feat should also have a name.

"We should name the bypass after the most celebrated and internationally known resident, Robert Owen.

"The new bypass gives the town the opportunity to breathe again – but also the need to market itself.

"The new Ffordd Robert Owen Way could be part of that marketing and I urge the Welsh Assembly to support this call and name the new road."

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How not to be snared by a web of deceit



From shopping to staying in touch, the internet has had a positive effect on our lives, but beware, it is also breeding ground for fraudsters

Online fraud is catching out an increasing number of people every year and in many cases causing their victims distress and often leaving them out of pocket.

From ordering groceries to staying in touch with friends and family, the internet has certainly changed many aspects of our lives for the better, writes Heather Large.

But the web has also made it easier for fraudsters and con artists to use it to invent all sorts of fake money-making opportunities and prey on innocent people.

During the past year, more than 130,200 cases of internet fraud were reported to the police across the UK.

Online cons can range from products being falsely advertised for sale to fraudsters extorting money from their victims. But there are ways to protect yourself on the internet and prevent yourself from being targeted.

Here are the five most common online cons taking place in the West Midlands, according to figures from the Home Office, with advice from the team at TalkTalk on how to beat them:

2

Computer software service fraud

This involves cold calls from bogus 'tech support' teams claiming the victim's computer has a bug. The fraudster will ask to remotely access the victim's computer to fix it, at a charge, or simply ask for credit card information to validate the software. The caller will claim to have fixed a bug that didn't exist, while charging the victim a fee. Fraudsters often use the names of well-known companies to commit their crime, as it makes their communication seem more legitimate.

TalkTalk says people should be wary if the caller asks for payment. Most reputable firms will not ask for payment when calling you. When in doubt – hang up, make a cup of tea, and call back on the customer service number provided on the company's website. Reputable firms will never ask for money to be sent through services such as Moneygram or Western Union. Fraudsters do this to prevent transactions from being traced back to them.

3

Email/social media hacks

Email or social media hacks are when a fraudster gains unpermitted access to email or social media accounts. A common tactic is to contact a family member or friend and ask to lend money to an account that belongs to the cheat.

TalkTalk recommends: "The most important step to keep email or social media accounts secure, is to use strong passwords – and not the same password across all accounts."

"To create a strong password; simply choose three random words. Numbers, symbols and combinations of upper and lower case can be used to increase the strength. Make sure you can remember it though."

4

Personal computer hacks

A personal computer hack is where a fraudster gains access to a home computer connected to the internet. This access often comes from phishing emails, directing users to enter personal information at a fake website. Once they have gained access, they will look to access online

banking or generally modify the computer in a way that makes it difficult for the owner to use.

TalkTalk says: "Sadly, common sense alone won't protect your computer from hackers. You can look out for tell-tale signs: phishing emails with things as simple as poor grammar, but you will also need to ensure your computer is kept updated, a good anti-virus software is installed and you use the latest version of your web browser."

5

Extortion

Extortion, in this instance, is when a scammer gains access to private content, such as photographs, and demands money to be paid immediately, for said content, or it will be sent to family and friends or made public.

TalkTalk's fraud prevention tip is that the first step to avoid such a situation is not send any content you wouldn't want to be shared further, even if you think you know the person really well. Otherwise, keep your computer secure with strong passwords and good anti-virus software."

Donna Moore, head of scam prevention at TalkTalk says: "Scams are becoming increasingly sophisticated crimes that affect the whole country on an unprecedented scale."

"As an internet service provider, we feel it is our responsibility to ensure that the public are armed with the knowledge that may help them identify a scam and therefore not fall victim themselves."

SCAM

This year in the UK there have been 130,200 reports of internet fraud

County is no idyll for young house buyers



Young people are struggling to buy homes or even rent accommodation, it has been claimed

YOUNG people in Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin are finding it impossible to get on the housing ladder or find rental accommodation, an expert has claimed.

With average house prices 8.5 times the average salary and the average rent more than £570 a month, the county is not the rural idyll it is perceived to be for those looking for somewhere to live, a director of one of the biggest housing providers in the county has said.

Sue Adams, from Star Housing, the arms-length management team for Shropshire Council housing, said the squeeze on council funding meant that local authority capacity to directly support rural housing and related services was limited.

That is bad news for young people with



New Century Court is reopened

limited resources who are looking for housing.

In recent weeks Star Housing reopened the New Century Court complex in Oswestry, which provides accommodation for 16-25 year olds, having taken over the building from a private housing association.

Ms Adams said that the answer should be to look to local social housing providers to help fill the gap. She says it is time that councils are given the resources they need to step in when private landlords move away.

She said: "Housing associations are reviewing the areas and properties that they manage and some properties have been sold into the private market. In rural areas costs of building are higher and properties are more expensive to manage due to a lack of economies of scale."

"In Shropshire some organisations have exited the county. Uncertainty over long-term service funding for supported housing and related services has also affected this type of provision and more than one housing association has ended its involvement in

Report by Sue Austin

supported housing schemes for young people. The council decided that strategically the last few schemes in the county must be supported and Star Housing worked with an existing provider and acquired the building in Oswestry.

However, the squeeze on council funding means that its capacity to directly support rural housing and related services is limited."

She said it was not all gloom and doom though, with recent increases in grant rates hopefully helping associations to consider provision in rural areas.

She added: "There are a few housing associations that are extremely dedicated to rural Shropshire and can now consider developing again for social rent in areas where local incomes are low."

"Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan led to more community-led affordable housing development but communities need more support to develop plans and landowners to release land for affordable housing. To ensure more progress we need continued funding for neighbourhood plans and revisions to inheritance tax and capital gains to incentivise landowners to release land specifically for affordable housing."

"We should give flexibility to councils to control some matters impacting on the provision of rural housing. They should have flexibility over empty homes premiums to finance temporary accommodation and homelessness services and be free to exempt properties in most demand from the Right-to-Buy."

Telford-based Wrekin Housing Trust is one of the largest social housing providers in the West Midlands, with almost 12,000 homes for rent and low cost home ownership across Shropshire and Staffordshire.

Officials said they wanted a new approach to the sale of land in order to provide more opportunities.

A spokesman for the trust said: "We are committed to delivering 500 new build properties per year over the next five years. Part of this includes helping young people get on to the property ladder, such as our shared ownership scheme, which mainly helps younger people buy their first property. We are also building a greater number of smaller properties, such as one and two-bedroom homes, to match the increased demand. These types of properties tend to suit younger people."

"Unfortunately, many people in Shropshire are being forced out of home ownership due to high prices, the lack of available housing, wage stagnation and not enough homes being built annually."

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 16...



NEWS

THE DAY LIFE CHANGED

Darren Edwards fell off two cliffs and survived. He talks about what happened and how he has made a new life for himself since.

OUTDOORS

Dave Edwards talks about life inside a training camp at a major tournament – and his World Cup predictions.

EVENTS

Ludlow Fringe Festival is on its way, and promises a variety of acts including top comedians over the course of the next two weeks

FOOD

It's strawberry season. Find out where to pick them, and what to do with them.



REVIEWS

The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and another great day out come under the microscope.

PLUS - LOCAL NEWS | SPORT
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2018 WORLD CUP

Russia 2018: FIFA World Cup JUNE 14 - JULY 15

Russia hosts the FIFA World Cup for the first time, but the lowest ranked team in the tournament faces a huge challenge to compete with the world's top footballing powers

RED AMBITION: Russia finished fourth in 1966, as Soviet Union, but Russian Federation team has yet to qualify from group stage

Performance by host

Group stage	2nd round/ Last 16:	Quarter-final:	3rd/4th	Final	Winner
2010	1982, 94, 2002	1998, 54, 70, 86	1962, 90, 2002, 06, 14	1950, 58	1930, 34, 66, 74, 78, 98

WINNING FEELING: Victory for Germany would equal Brazil's five World Cup crowns and be first successive title win since 1962

Brazil Win ratio: 67.3% Tournament wins: 70

Germany	62.3%	66
Italy*	54.2%	45
Argentina	54.5%	42
Spain	49.2%	29
France	47.5%	28
Netherlands*	54.0%	27
England	41.9%	26

*Did not qualify for World Cup 2018

**Germany qualified with superlative 10-game winning streak - scoring 43 goals

***Igor Akinfeev Russia captain and veteran goalkeeper crucial to host nation's hopes - over 100 caps for his country

Competition schedule

32 teams contest total of 64 matches, played at 12 venues, over four weeks

June A	June B	June C	June D
14 Russia 15 Egypt 19 Russia 20 Uruguay 25 Uruguay	1 Saudi Arabia 2 Uruguay 3 Egypt 4 Saudi Arabia	15 Morocco 20 Portugal 25 Iran	16 France 21 Denmark 26 Denmark
14 Russia 15 Egypt 19 Russia 20 Uruguay 25 Uruguay	1 Saudi Arabia 2 Uruguay 3 Egypt 4 Saudi Arabia	16 France 21 Peru 26 Australia	16 Argentina 21 Croatia 22 Nigeria 26 Nigeria
14 Russia 15 Egypt 19 Russia 20 Uruguay 25 Uruguay	1 Saudi Arabia 2 Uruguay 3 Egypt 4 Saudi Arabia	17 Spain 18 Portugal 19 Morocco 20 Spain	17 Iceland 21 Nigeria 22 Croatia 26 Iceland
P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts	P W D L F A Pts
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Top two from each group progress to knockout stage

June	E	2	11	2	38
17 Costa Rica	Serbia	Samara			
Brazil	Switzerland	Rostov			
22 Brazil	Costa Rica	St Petersburg			
27 Serbia	Switzerland	Kaliningrad			
P	W	D	L	F	A
1					
2					
3					
4					

June	F	1	25	62	
17 Germany	Mexico	Moscow			
18 Sweden	South Korea	Nizhny Novgorod			
23 South Korea	Mexico	Rostov			
Germany	Sweden	Sochi			
27 Mexico	Sweden	Yekaterinburg			
South Korea	Germany	Kazan			
P	W	D	L	F	A
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June	G	5	4	2	12
18 Belgium	Panama	Sochi			
Tunisia	England	Volgograd			
23 Belgium	Tunisia	Moscow			
24 England	Panama	Nizhny Novgorod			
Panama	Tunisia	Kaliningrad			
1					
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June	H	6	32	13	44
19 Colombia	Japan	Saransk			
Poland	Senegal	Moscow			
24 Japan	Senegal	Yekaterinburg			
Poland	Colombia	Kazan			
28 Japan	Poland	Volgograd			
Senegal	Colombia	Saransk			
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CROATIA

Add a touch of romance in honour of royal couple

WANT to add a touch of romance to your garden, in honour of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle?

You may not have the resources of Philippa Craddock, the royal couple's wedding florist, but you can still reserve a space in your garden to create a lover's haven, complete with heavily scented roses, blousy peonies and foxgloves, their chosen flowers.

Expand your repertoire to feature further romantic notes, including fragrant lavender, swathes of wispy ornamental grass and arches adorned with soft-hued climbers, such as scented jasmine and honeysuckle.

Here are some of the features which could make up your romantic setting...

COTTAGE GARDEN FAVOURITES

Roses, foxgloves, peonies and delphiniums in soft, pastel shades of lilac, blues, pinks and whites all have their place in the cottage garden, which has a relaxed feel and a dreamy, haphazard informal structure.

If you have space, plant naturalistic grasses in swathes, interspersing them with soft-hued flowers, to create a hazy effect. Repeat-plant to provide some structure to what typically looks like an informal, unforced design.

WHITE ROSES

White garden roses represent purity, innocence and, in earlier days, were used as a symbol of true love, before red became more popularly associated.

The Sunken Garden where Harry and Meghan had their first photo call (pictured) was planted with white flowers to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

If you want a romantic cottage garden, you'll need an open, sunny area with well-drained soil, enriched with organic matter - such as compost or well-rotted manure. Other plants which typically fit into the cottage garden setting include lavender, salvia, astrantia, Verbena bonariensis and aquilegia.

COSY SEATING

Even in the smallest space, if you can incorporate snuggled seating and fringe it with scented plants, such as lavender, or create an archway of roses and clematis over it, then you'll be heading for the height of romance.

A secluded spot somewhere quiet in the garden, which enjoys sun for at least part of the day, can become a lovers' retreat.

WATER FEATURES

Water not only creates an air of calm to a garden, but it can also reflect the sky, passing clouds and surrounding foliage, as well as helping to blot out traffic noise. It can be a feature to admire, or just to listen to at the end of the day.

Coupled with soft solar lighting and white-flowered plants, it's also an after-dark haven. If you want the water to reflect the sky, go for a feature of shallow, still water without plants, using a dark material in the bottom of the water feature, to make the most of the reflections.

FLOWERS FOR CUTTING

Bring the romantic garden inside by growing flowers for cutting outside, including sweet peas, cornflowers and roses, as well as astrolemeria, delphiniums and pinks. Just a few blooms from your romantic plot, cut at the back of a plant where it won't show, can be arranged in a pretty enamel jug or glass vase. Make sure you don't cut your flowers from one place, leaving an obvious gap in your border, though.

SCULPTURE

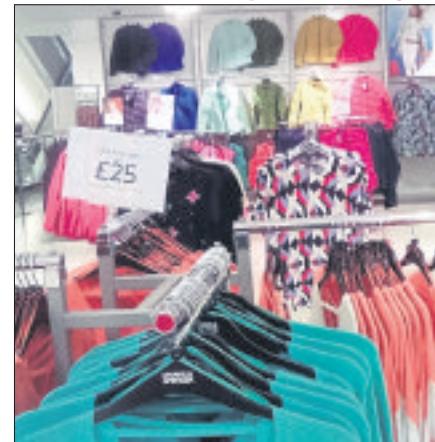
Of course, a carefully-chosen sculpture is a huge romantic gesture in any garden.

There's a wealth to choose from, from granite nymphs to heart-shaped ironmongery, bronze lovers, and coloured-glass installations and astrological signs.

Before buying your sculpture, think about where you're going to put it and take a picture of the spot to get an idea of size, location (will it be in sun or shade?) and how the will light change the colour of the piece.

If necessary, place cardboard boxes on top of each other in the spot, to get an idea of scale, and make sure it has enough space to stand out - without getting in the way of access to a pathway or another section of the garden. It may be safer to choose the pieces together and share the enjoyment - and the romance - for years to come.

Throwing away clothes can affect carbon footprint



Even buying new clothes can add to our carbon footprint

ONE problem with the spring sunny weather is that people update their wardrobe leading to 300,000 tonnes of textiles ending up in landfill every year, adding five per cent to our carbon and water footprint.

Latest research showed fashion followers threw away clothes worth £12.5 billion last year with each person putting an average of eight items in the bin.

Yet if every tonne of clothing was put out for recycling instead of going to landfill it would save more than half a tonne of carbon dioxide emissions.

"They are quite staggering figures," said green energy expert Ron Fox. "It also shows that it is not only large plans by world governments that can save our planet, but also small and simple steps by individuals."

In a study commissioned by Vanish, the stain removal brand, one in 10 people said they threw away clothes after wearing them only a few times because it was easy and cheap to buy new ones. One in 20 admitted throwing away unused items because they could not be bothered to return them to the shop.

It found that people had good intentions, bagging the clothes up for charity shops, but 60 per cent admitted throwing them away in landfill to save on hassle.

The research found that people considered an item of clothing was old after about seven weeks or only 20 washes.

"It would be much easier and much better for our carbon footprint if people gave them instead to friends, family or charity shops," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the Uni-

versity of Keele Science and Innovation Park. The waste charity Wrap said that clothes dumped in landfill give off methane, a greenhouse gas.

It added that if the clothes were used for an extra nine months and extending their average life to about three years, their carbon and water footprints would be reduced by up to 30 per cent.

The survey also found that many binned clothes if they were stained, or had a hole in them, even though they could have been repaired or cleaned.

A total of 32 per cent admitted putting stained clothes in the washing machine without any special treatment and if the stain was still there at the end of the cycle they would throw the clothes away.

Some 27 per cent threw garments away because of a hole that could have easily been sewn up.

"What is clear is that the thrift of previous generations has been overtaken by the throwaway generation," said Mr Fox. "We seem to have lost the skills of repairing clothes which used to be passed down to children."

"Perhaps also more should be done to encourage charities and local authorities to provide more collection services."

Mr Fox said the survey also showed that nearly a third of clothes, worth more than £1,000 per household or £30 billion, hadn't been worn in the previous 12 months.

"Perhaps we all ought to give our wardrobes a spring clean and help our planet," he added.

How to make your garden a refuge for butterflies

Report by Hannah Stephenson

ALAN TITCHMARSH is calling on gardeners to make a metre for wildlife this summer, by providing a refuge for struggling butterflies, moths and other pollinators.

Launching Butterfly Conservation's "Plots for Pollinators" campaign, Titchmarsh, the charity's vice president, said: "The future of our butterflies, moths and other pollinating insects is under threat, as the places where they live are disappearing.

"The cold start to spring may affect how some butterflies fare this year, as they could experience a delayed emergence, meaning they'll have less time to feed and breed - but you can help by creating some 'plots for pollinators'.

"There are so many different flowers that are great nectar sources, like catmint, cosmos or calendula," he added.

"See if you can find just one square metre and you could attract lots of butterflies this spring and summer, like my favourite - the red admiral."

"It doesn't have to be on the lawn either - you could create a vertical garden on a bit of unused wall or fence and this would make a huge difference for pollinators."

The project encourages people to set aside one square-metre of their garden or outdoor space to plant a nectar-rich flowerbed, or a colourful container garden.

Previously widespread species, such as the small tortoiseshell and garden tiger moth, have seen their numbers plummet in recent years.

Here, Titchmarsh offers some top tips on creating plots for pollinators...

SELECT YOUR SPACE

Measure out one square-metre of outdoor space and fill it with open-flowered, nectar-rich plants. Choose a sunny, sheltered position and group pots together on a patio, grow plants up a fence or wall, or commit an area of a flowerbed.

KEEP WATERING

Water your plot regularly - ideally from a water butt, as this is more environmentally friendly. Frequent watering prevents plants from drying out during a spell of hot weather, especially when in containers, and helps flowers to produce more nectar. Remember to water the soil not the plant, as larger leaves can act as an umbrella which prevents water getting to the roots. Remove the rose from your watering can to get nearer the plant base if necessary.

LAY A MULCH

Put a layer of mulch on the surface of the soil around the plants, to help prevent water evaporation and suppress weed growth.

USE PEAT-FREE COMPOST

Always choose peat-free compost and cut down on your use of plastic. Use recyclable and recycled containers or be creative and



A young boy deadheading a cosmos



A small tortoiseshell butterfly on a nettle



Alan Titchmarsh is urging people to help

turn tins and tubs into plant pots. Remember to drill drainage holes in the bottom to prevent waterlogging.

DEAD-HEAD BLOOMS

Dead-heading after flowering keeps plants looking attractive and encourages more blooms.

GET NEIGHBOURS INVOLVED

Inspire your neighbours to plant a plot for pollinators to create a flowery "super highway" for the pollinating insects where you live.

AVOID CHEMICALS

Avoid using harmful pesticides, by re-

moving slugs and snails by hand instead. Night is the best time to catch these maddening molluscs in action. Once caught, release them at a safe distance from your plot.

The Plots for Pollinators project will run throughout spring and summer. Visit butterfly-conservation.org/PlantPlots

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Well maintained dormer bungalow with rural views

This delightful three-bedroomed detached dormer bungalow, Cynhyrfa at Llynclys near Oswestry, has been maintained to a high standard.

It is situated in a quiet location of the village of Llynclys with views over open countryside.

Having double glazing and oil central heating, it is now for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £295,000.

Its flexible living accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance hall, living room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen/diner, utility room, study and bathroom.

To the first floor there are two bedrooms with en-suites and a further third bedroom. Outside, the property has a good sized garden with an outdoor and BBQ area, a summerhouse and garage.

Llynclys is a small village in Shropshire, in the civil parish of Llanyblodwel. It lies north of Pant well placed for access to the towns of Shrewsbury, Welshpool and Oswestry.

In more detail its entrance hall has wood-effect laminate flooring and a door into the living room. This has parquet wood block flooring and a glazed door into the dining room.

The dining room has laminate flooring, built-in cupboards with lights and display shelving.

The kitchen diner has a full range of fitted oak units, with a utility off. There is also a study and bathroom.

A further living room features a solid fuel log burner in a brick surround fireplace with raised brick and oak top for a TV display.

It has dual aspect views to the front and side elevations and a solid wood staircase to the first floor and split level landing.

Upstairs are three bedrooms (one ensuite with built-in cupboards) and a shower room.

KEY FEATURES

- Detached dormer bungalow
- Very well maintained
- Quiet location
- Open countryside views
- 3 bedrooms

LLYNCLYS £295,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

The main cottage comprises a porch, a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, woodburner and French doors. Adjacent is the library with glazing and views to two aspects and the study – a cosy hideaway. The morning room is the central point of the ground floor from which the stairs ascend to three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Beyond the morning room, the dining room is partially open plan to the kitchen, achieving a fabulous social space



with sleek contemporary fixtures in the kitchen. A second study, cloakroom/WC and utility complete the ground floor accommodation.

Duncan Scobie of Balfours, said: "Evelyn and Mike Gregory have nurtured Little Hope to create a fresh and spacious home, together with a highly successful bed and breakfast business. The latter is run as Long Mountain Bed and Breakfast, which has received many awards and certificates of excellence, from Visit Wales and Trip Adviser. The guest accommodation reflects this, it provides three spacious double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and the other two with en-suite shower rooms. A large guest dining/lounge spanning nearly six metres square and an independent guest kitchen allow the guest accommodation to be run totally separately; or for an extended family to enjoy."

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views over valley

LLANRHAEDR
£400,000 >>>

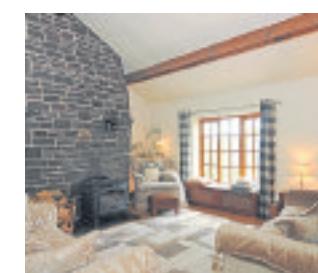
Clynog, Llanrhedadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000.

The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhedadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 for more details about the home or to arrange a viewing.



Detached house with valley views comes with a large decked area

GARTH
£374,950 <<<

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceirrog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear.

Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators. An open plan approach leads through to the dining/kitchen.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



Semi-detached bungalow has garage and also a carport

OWESTRY

£159,950

<<<

A well maintained two bedroom semi-detached bungalow, Whitefriars in Oswestry has a good sized rear garden and comes with a garage and carport.

It is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £159,950. The property is located on the edge of Oswestry town and has the benefit of a regular bus service. There is a local Co-op a few minutes away. The accommodation has upvc windows and doors, central fired heating system and there is a porch, living room, kitchen and dining area. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom. Outside the property is approached over a slabbed driveway leading to a garage with light and power and a carport.

For more information about the property and to arrange a viewing, contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Double fronted home in picturesque valley

PONTFAEN

£649,995

A detached double fronted Victorian house, Bryn Ceiriog, Pontfaen, Chirk, lies in the rural hamlet of Pontfaen within the picturesque Ceiriog Valley.

Having oil central heating and double glazing, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £649,995. There is an entrance hall, lounge, sitting room, reception room, laundry, breakfast kitchen, morning room, bathroom/ sauna and four bedrooms.

The property is approached through electric gates with intercom onto a stone driveway with ample parking. A driveway leads to a garage. The gardens include a raised fish pond with a water feature, a large shed, second shed, patio, decked seating area with a large Jacuzzi, water fall and a summer house.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437.


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Four bedroom detached home has good sized gardens

TREFONEN
£469,000 [>>>](#)

A superb spacious four bedroom detached bungalow, Heulwen, Sandrock Lane, Trefonen, has a double garage and good sized gardens.

The property is located on a quiet lane with countryside views on the edge of Trefonen. The home is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £469,000. The well maintained detached bungalow is constructed of brick under a slate roof and has the benefit of oil fired central heating and double glazing. The home has a front entrance, reception hall, study, lounge and dining room. There is also a sun room, kitchen and utility as well as a garden room and inner hall. There are four bedrooms including an ensuite and there is a family bathroom. The property is approached by a sweeping driveway leading to the double garage with an up and over door.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



MOELFRE
£595,000

A perfect country retreat, away from the hustle and bustle of life, Y Dafarn at Moelfre, has four bedrooms and outstanding countryside views.

Overlooking Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £595,000 with no chain. A highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home, it sits in three acres of fields and gardens. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with an en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace. Its elegant entrance hallway has a stone fireplace (not working), part panelled walls, a beamed ceiling and stairs off. The sitting room has a beamed ceiling, a brick fireplace with an oil fired stove and alcove cupboards. The shower



room is a fantastic luxury space with a tiled floor, wash hand basin on vanity unit, WC, walk-in shower with a Triton shower unit, a luxury ceiling mounted air body dryer, a vanity mirror and a beamed ceiling. The kitchen/breakfast room is the beautiful heart of the home. A farm-style kitchen open plan to the living room, it has wooden flooring, free-standing units, a ceramic sink with a mixer tap, a stainless steel oven, a microwave, an induction hob, under-floor heating, plumbing for a dishwasher and a window to the front. Stairs lead off to the first floor. There is access to an attic above the kitchen with a pull down ladder. This is boarded and has lighting. There is also a pantry with a ceramic sink, cold slabs, a beamed ceiling and old pub stone steps. The living room has wooden flooring, under-floor heating, two windows to the side and a storage room off.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Detached Victorian period family home has large garden

OSWESTRY
£450,000 [<<<](#)

A detached Victorian period family home, Leeswood in Morda Road, Oswestry lies in a popular location within easy walking distance of the town centre.

Coming with a large garden including a former tennis court, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £450,000.

The accommodation briefly comprises a porch, entrance hallway, lounge, morning room, sun room, dining room, cloakroom/shower room, five bedrooms, two being en-suite, an impressive main bathroom, three spacious reception rooms, a hand made kitchen and utility room, a driveway, detached garage and gardens.

In more detail the entrance hallway has a herringbone woodblock floor, panelled walls and a traditional spindled staircase.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details and to arrange a viewing.



A stunning view – Rhossili Bay



Bistro Pierre is a contemporary French restaurant



The Grape and Olive is at the top of the Meridian Tower

Pick healthy Father's Day active break for your Dad

Report by Peter Kitchen

UP the ante this Father's Day and treat your Dad to a healthy activity break.

There's nothing quite like bonding in the great outdoors with a range of active holidays from tennis in Portugal and golf in Cyprus to a yoga retreat in Turkey and a fitness sports break in Tenerife, according to wellness holiday specialists Health and Fitness Travel.

Choose a tailor-made health and fitness holiday designed around his favourite pastimes and give your father a fun filled break, to make this the best Father's Day.

FOR THE SPORTY DAD
Tenerife: Baobab Suites Swimming or Running

Gift your dad with sports galore on this dynamic health and fitness break, located in the inspiring Playa del Duque in Tenerife South. Choose or combine fitness activities and allow Dad to discover noticeable results that are achieved from these two disciplines. Strengthen and tone with personalised sessions to boost his fitness from his preferred sports area, meal from the Fuel RestoBar that caters to all wellness needs. Repair Dad's body for another full day of fitness fun with a relaxing deep tissue, sports or therapeutic massage.

Health and Fitness Travel offers 5 nights at Baobab Suites from £980pp or £1,440 for single occupancy. Price includes accommodation, breakfast, a swimming or running programme, return flights and transfers.

FOR THE WORKOUT DAD
Portugal: Longevity Cegonha Country Club Bootcamp

Enjoy some father-child bonding with a pre-summer shape up on an energising Bootcamp holiday, set in the sunny Algarve.

From pulse-raising circuit training to testing TRX camps, this comprehensive 6-day fitness retreat is ideal for fitness focused fathers. Healthy, cleansing meals will complement the rigorous training schedule, whilst detox and weight loss treatments will boost results.

Health and Fitness Travel (0203 397 8891 healthandfitnesstravel.com) offers 7 nights at Longevity Cegonha Country Club from £2,065pp or £2,500 for single occupancy.

Price includes accommodation, full board, a Bootcamp programme, return flights and transfers.

FOR THE TENNIS PRO DAD
Portugal: Pine Cliffs Anabel Croft Tennis

Get your Dad to ace his game and his health on this dynamic tennis holiday at Pine Cliffs, set in a prime sea-front location on the amazing coastline of the Algarve.

This low-impact sport can help to increase aerobic fitness levels, speed up metabolism and improve coordination, this tennis holiday will keep Dad on his toes. Together with daily private tennis lessons, optional group tennis clinics are an opportunity to further practice technique whilst socialising with others.

Health and Fitness Travel (0203 397 8891 healthandfitnesstravel.com) offers 7 nights at Pine Cliffs from £1,645pp or £2,355 for single occupancy. Price includes accommodation, daily breakfast, a tennis programme, return flights and transfers.

FOR THE GOLFING DAD

Cyprus: Aphrodite Hills Golf Home to a magnificent 18-hole golf course, treat your dad to a luxury wellness getaway at Aphrodite Hills. Set overlooking the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean Sea, Aphrodite Hills is an expansive resort also boasting state-of-the-art sporting facilities and opulent accommodation.

Whether your Dad wants to work on his backswing or you just want an excuse to treat him, enjoy a memorable golf break with private lessons and four complimentary rounds on the visually spectacular green.

Health and Fitness Travel (0203 397 8891 healthandfitnesstravel.com) offers 7 nights at Aphrodite Hills from £1,945pp or £2,435 for single occupancy. Price includes accommodation, daily breakfast, a golf programme, return flights and transfers.

For advice, guidance and booking visit www.healthandfitnesstravel.com or call 0203 397 8891.

Whistle-stop break in 'simply fablas' area

ON HOLIDAY

Report by Cathy Stanworth

WHILE tucking into a truly scrumptious lunch at the warm and welcoming King Arthur Hotel in the heart of Wales's beautiful Gower peninsula, the enthusiasm of our waitress on the local area was infectious.

She told myself and my partner Rob how new business investment in the tourist town where we were staying for the weekend was, to quote her lovely soft lilting accent, "simply fablas".

We had arrived in Mumbles the night before following news that The Rough Guide to 2018 had put Wales at number five in the list of the top 18 places that should be on your radar this year, ranking above the likes of Cuba, New Orleans and Russia!

We were staying at the gorgeous boutique bed and breakfast, Langland Cove Guesthouse, which is charmingly positioned 200 metres from Langland Bay, in a cosmopolitan area of Swansea.

Magical

It was our first trip to this beautiful area on a whistle-stop tour to enjoy its gastronomic gems, magical landscapes, superb visitor attractions, culture and independent shops.

And for those who love to enjoy the great outdoors, the Gower Peninsula's epic coastline, with its jagged peaks, is also ideal for water sports or hiking enthusiasts.

You can walk all 1,400km of the Wales Coast Path – with Wales being the only country in the world with a dedicated path around its entire coastline.

Add to this a mix of enticing activities, such as world-class mountain biking, a complex of subterranean trampolines and the fastest zip line on the planet, and you start

One 'L' of a name is needed for zoo's latest arrival



The baby spider monkey with a parent



Take a look across Swansea Bay from Grape and Olive, the restaurant at the top of Meridian Tower

to see just why Wales clinched the number five position in the guide.

We were absolutely delighted with The Langland Cove Guesthouse in Mumbles. It has beautiful interiors and is run with all the warmth of a family-run bed and breakfast.

After enjoying a superb breakfast the following morning, Rob and I set off for Gower's most westerly point at Rhossili Bay, to take a walk on Rhossili Beach – the only beach to have been named Britain's top beach by TripAdvisor for two years running. While there you can take in spectacular scenery and walk towards the Worm's Head, with its breathtaking views of the Atlantic. There is also a National Trust visitor centre on site.

Next on the agenda was a stroll around Mumbles' pretty local shops and boutiques to check out the handmade crafts and superb ice creams. The Lovespoon Gallery and Gower Gallery are also well worth a visit.

That evening it was time to check out one of the latest additions to Mumble's seafood restaurants, Bistro Pierre.

A very impressive, contemporary French-style two-floor restaurant, with floor-to-ceiling windows and stunningly high ceilings, this is one of Mumbles' latest success stories.

It was heaving, so make sure you book in advance. We were served an excellent three-course meal. Everything was faultless, the food, service and surroundings.

On Sunday morning we set off to visit Swansea's impressive Waterfront area.

Here we were able to visit The Dylan Thomas Centre, the stunning modern National Waterfront Museum and the Swansea Museum, to take a step back in time.

Swansea's Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, founded in 1911 and recently massively redeveloped, is another big draw.

For lunch we checked out the Grape and Olive restaurant, which lies at the top of Wales's tallest building, the Meridian Tower, being 351 feet high, with 360-degree views across the five-mile sweep of Swansea Bay, towards Mumbles.

For mains we had an awesome Sunday lunch sharing platter for two.

Our trip had not been a disappointment.

VISITORS can take a peek at Drayton Manor Zoo's newest addition over the spring bank holiday.

Primate keepers are celebrating the March 20 birth of the Black-Headed Spider Monkey as the breed is classified as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

She was born to parents Sharfy and Lizzy but does not have a name yet so the park will release details soon on how to enter a competition to name her. They are looking for a name that begins with

an 'L'. It comes ahead of Love Your Zoo Week celebrations from May 26 to June 3 where there will be a variety of activities on offer at the 15 acre zoo.

Chris Mitchell, Head of Zoo Operations at Staffordshire's Drayton Manor Park, said: "We always enjoy Love Your Zoo week here and being able to continue to share our values with the park's visitors.

Devastated

"In recent news the world was left devastated by the loss of the last male Northern White Rhino, Sudan."

"It is with that in mind that we remember the pivotal role that zoos play in helping to protect animals that are cur-

rently struggling to survive in the wild.

"That is why the birth of our young Black-Headed Spider Monkey is such a celebration and a really proud moment for the keepers that know and love her as much as her parents do."

As part of British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums' annual Love Your Zoo Week, visitors can learn about 100 species of animals from across the globe. Visitors can explore the Love Your Zoo trail for the chance to win a return ticket for a family of four and there will be "4 for £80" tickets on offer on selected dates if they are booked in advance.

Drayton Manor's mascot, Rory the Lion, will also be out and about in the zoo as well.

Nostalgia calling: 60 years of trunk dialling



It's been six decades since a sea-change in telecommunications was announced

It is something we all take for granted today – but it was big news at the time, writes Mark Andrews.

Back in 1958, Postmaster General Ernest Marples announced there would be a sea-change in the way people communicated with one another. He predicted that within little more than a decade, people all over the country would be able to communicate with each other simply by dialling a number on a telephone.

No speaking to the operator, no asking to be connected to a different exchange at the destination of your call. Just a few spins of the dial, and you would be through.

It is 60 years ago that Marples announced the telecommunications that would eventually lead to people having a telephone in virtually every home.

Until that time, if you wanted to speak to somebody outside your immediate area, you would have to call the operator and ask to be connected to the appropriate exchange, which would then direct the call to the person at the other end.

"It was a very slow process," recalls Jean

Swift, then Jean Roberts, who was a young operator when Subscriber Trunk Dialling, or STD, came to Shropshire.

The 83-year-old, who worked at both Wellington and Shrewsbury telephone exchanges, says the change went pretty smoothly, although not everybody was happy.

"I remember this woman was getting quite irate by the time she got through to me," she remembers. "I think she had been having trouble getting through, and she said 'I can't work this LSD phone box. It was quite funny.'

At the time Marples was keen to bring tele-

phone use to the masses, but it had been a long,

slow process. Phones were still a rare, luxury item, and even those that did have them made an average of just two calls – less than half of those made in the UK.

But Marples said the introduction of STD not only meant long-distance phone calls would be much easier to make, it would also slash the costs, as calls would be connected mechanically, without the need for an operator to make the link.

It was announced that calls would be charged automatically according to both time of day and distance. Prices would start at 2d – about 18p at today's prices, and a three-minute call would be 2s and 6d – a 40 per cent reduction from the previous rate of 3s 6d, or about £3.85 at today's prices.

More than that, it also paved the way for a network of "pay on answer" coin-operated phone boxes, the first of which were installed in Bristol with slots for 3d, 6d, and 1s pieces. It gave us the famous "pips", where money could not be put in slot until the phone had been answered, making sure customers did not have to pay for any time they did not use.

Marples demonstrated to reporters how the new payphones would work. A series of pips indicated when the time paid for was running out, the caller would be required to insert more coins if they wanted to carry on talking.

He added: "If you don't put it in that time, you'll hear the 'number unobtainable' in which

case as they say – rudely – you've had it. We didn't want to be too hard on the people in the kiosks for this reason, they may not have quite the right money available, and we wanted to give them the chance to continue the conversation if they so wished. It's quite revolutionary, and I think it will give them good value for money."

The Queen made Britain's first automatic trunk call, dialling a number in Edinburgh from the telephone exchange in Bristol in December, 1958, at that time the longest distance that the new network covered. Her call, which lasted two minutes and five seconds, cost just 10d.

Converting the nation's phone network over to the new automated system was a huge process, involving a £35 million investment by the General Post Office, and it took many years.

The exchange at Wellington switched over in November, 1968, in a ceremony at the Town House nightspot, attended by civic dignitaries including Wrexham MP Bill Yates and council chairman Councillor Alan Hartland.

Shrewsbury area telephone manager, Mr F Bate, described the event as a major milestone. The last call to the old exchange was made

by Councillor Hartland, who spoke to deputy supervisor Doris Beech before cutting the wire and formally opening the new service.

While the idea was to reduce costs by cutting down on the operators' workload, they would still be on hand to help customers. Indeed, she says the exchange was as busy as it ever was.

"More and more people were getting phones, and there was plenty for us to do."

It was a strict environment for the telephonists in those days. When Jean arrived as a 15-year-old in 1949, her bosses wasted no time in laying down the law. She was told she could not wear trousers, could not eat sweets, must never pull the plugs out by the cord because the engineers had to keep mending them and had to ask the assistant supervisor for permission if she needed to go to the toilet. Despite all this, she remembers it as a wonderful place to work – "I loved it, there was great camaraderie."

"The Queen made Britain's first automatic trunk call"



Jean Swift, 83, was an operator for Subscriber Trunk Dialling in Shropshire

School's £11m science centre leading way



Barry Brown admires the short-faced bear skeleton in the science block foyer

STAFF, pupils and visitors to the new showpiece science block of a top independent school are greeted by the skeleton of a huge bear.

Report by Mark Andrews

The 10ft beast, which dominates the foyer of the new £11 million centre at Concord College in Acton Burnell, is the brainchild of head of science Barry Brown.

"I wanted something which, when I come in here, makes me think of a museum or a university," says Mr Brown, who joined the school in September last year.

"The students here aspire to go to university, and we are trying to create a university-standard facility here."

The 10ft short-faced bear skeleton, which was imported from the United States, is certainly an eye-catching presence.

Benefit

He says principal Neil Hawkins wanted to work with primary schools in the area so they too could benefit from the new facilities, which include 22 laboratories, four classrooms as well as a further two preparation labs.

"Neil wanted to see this place serving the community, and making a difference," he says.

"We need more doctors and scientists, and we are helping to produce them."

He says Concord hopes to extend the scheme to other primary schools in the area in the coming months.

Mr Hawkins says the activities are also beneficial to the Concord pupils.

"Our own young people also benefit from having young children coming into the school," he says, adding that it helps them develop communication skills.

He is also very proud of a 360-degree "sphere", where pupils will be able to fully surround by three-dimensional imagery.

This could be used for the teaching of astronomy, for example, where the galaxy can be projected around pupils, or biology, where they will get the chance to experience life at the bottom of the ocean.

Concord was last year ranked as the second best school in the country for science, coming ahead of famous public schools such as Eton and Fettes.

Mr Brown says the school is keen to develop inquiring minds which recognise that science is an evolving concept which still includes many unknowns.

"It is important for us to stretch the students, and it is also important for them to see that we don't have all the answers," he says.



Neil Hawkins in the 360 degree "sphere"

The school, based in the grounds of Acton Burnell Castle, is opening up its new science block to primary school pupils from the area to encourage them to take an interest in science.

Every week, a group of youngsters from Longnor CE Primary School in Shrewsbury visit as part of the Crest awards scheme.

"It's a bit like the Duke of Edinburgh awards, but for science," says Mr Brown, who took up his post in September, having previously taught at Shrewsbury High School.

Taking part in one of the sessions is 11-year-old Ben Willis, who has spent the afternoon testing different water samples.

"We have taken water from different places, and we have been trying to find which one is the cleanest," he says.

Longnor headteacher Lucy Adams says being able to use the facilities at Concord is a real benefit to the pupils.

"Our pupils don't normally have the equipment or the opportunity of being in a lab," she says.

Clock is ticking for Marks & Spencer



Mainstay of the high street for generations, M&S faces a perfect storm of customer apathy, cheaper rivals and online shopping as it battles for survival

It has been the mainstay of high streets up and down the country for generations, but recent years have not been kind to Marks & Spencer.

The woes of its clothing department have been an issue for a long time, with its fashions dismissed by younger shoppers as too 'old' at the same time as it was seen as 'cosy' compared to trendier competitors like Next and cheaper rivals like New Look and Primark. The growth of supermarket clothing departments and cutting-edge online fashion stores like Boohoo.com haven't helped either.

While its food remains a byword for quality, its homewares have also struggled against competitors both on the high street and online.

CEO Steve Rowe joined the struggling department store chain two years ago and launched

an ambitious five-year turnaround plan for the company.

That is seeing a growth in M&S Simply Food stores, with the conversion of some traditional clothing stores to just sell food. Mr Rowe warned last year that closures would be on the way, with 14 doomed stores named in January.

Recently another 14 stores were earmarked for closure, with 21 stores nationwide having shut already. M&S says it aims to cut 100 stores by 2022.

It appears the M&S stores in Castle Street in Shrewsbury and Dean Street in Telford have avoided the axe – for the moment at least – as they were not named among the 14 to close.

But nothing will have prepared the folk of Walsall for the news – that the town centre store there is now at risk of closure. The 94 staff at the Saddlers Centre M&S are now in consultation over their future.

Risk

Retail experts believe that many of the big traditional stores are most at risk, with their sizeable rents and underperformance over recent years.

That would put branches like Shrewsbury, Wolverhampton, Kidderminster, Merry Hill – where it has two sites – and Stafford Riverside in the firing line over the next four years. Their staff will be well aware that failure to achieve strong sales will put their jobs at risk.

Meanwhile, M&S is hoping that its newly installed clothing boss, former Halfords chief executive Jill McDonald, will succeed where her predecessors have failed: help Marks & Spencer regain its sparkle as the country's go-to clothing store.

Since Michael Marks and Tom Spencer opened their first Penny Bazaars back in 1894, M&S has adapted to change on the high street.

It is what made M&S such a dominant business. In the 1980s every woman had M&S knickers in her underwear drawer. But gradually the

business lost its magic touch and it has been struggling to regain it for more than a decade.

At the same time, the high street has become a much more hostile environment. In fact, this year it has seemed more like a bloodbath, with Toys R Us and Maplin in administration and others pursuing rescue plans.

Department stores are struggling to compete at the same time as a slowdown in consumer spending has driven a string of companies to seek Company Voluntary Arrangements, or CVAs.

These are agreements with creditors and landlords that usually involve the companies closing some stores and getting rent reductions on others as part of a bid to enable the rest of the business to carry on. The number of restaurants chains that have also sought CVAs is testament to what economists call a "lack of consumer confidence".

Which means we don't feel we have as much money to spare as we used to and are more inclined to hold on to it.

Even the traditional budget clothing chains like New Look haven't been immune from the slowdown in our spending habits. And for M&S, which has been a middle-market destination for most of its recent history, it makes life even tougher.

Iceland and Lidl now both offer premium food at budget prices, so even M&S's tried and trusted groceries are facing harsh competition.

M&S has previously described the food arm as exhibiting "ongoing under-performance", with Mr Rowe saying he will slow expansion of the Simply Food chain as the group battles to restore its high street fortunes.

And this, just as many were starting to feel that M&S was starting to get its fashion mojo back. Mr Rowe and Mr Norman believe they have a plan that will solve the problems at M&S by 2022. But the clock is ticking.

The big question is: can they get M&S back on track before time runs out?



Chief executive Steve Rowe has warned of closures

Sufferers are often being left short-changed



The chairman of a Shropshire campaign group says dementia sufferers deserve more support

DEMENTIA sufferers deserve more support, the chairman of a campaign group in Shropshire has said.

George Rook attacked a lack of help for people who fall into a "wilderness of fear".

And he identified a postcode lottery that means people suffering from the condition in the Shropshire Council area have access to fewer services than those in Telford & Wrekin.

Mr Rook, of Shropshire Telford and Wrekin Dementia Action Alliance, has asked for more backing from Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Shropshire Council. He made his call during Dementia Week.

He said: "Some 3,700 people in Shropshire live with dementia. More than 2,000 live in their own homes – 67 per cent have a diagnosis.

"For the younger and fitter people there



Dementia support manager Rachel Wintle, Alzheimer's Society information worker Phil Gillam, and Newport mayor Lyn Fowler

is almost no support. And what there is is broadly not what people living with dementia want or choose."

"It is what organisations think should be provided, such as dementia cafes with organised group activities.

"People in Shropshire have a co-produced dementia strategy and model of care, agreed two years ago. But Shropshire CCG is not funding its implementation across the county.

"After diagnosis people living with dementia are left in a wilderness of fear, bereavement and loneliness. Until they reach later stages, perhaps up to 10 or more years later, there is little or no support.

"Peer support groups, led by and attended by people living with dementia, and others for carers, are key to well-being and therefore health.

"But these groups need a small resource to initiate them and keep them going. This

is not available, so there are just three such groups for people living with dementia in Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Market Drayton – and none elsewhere – run by volunteers without any funding or support.

"Shropshire CCG does not commission an Admiral Nurse Service or sufficient dementia support workers to provide a consistent level of support for people living with dementia and their family carers across the county.

"Yet Telford & Wrekin does both of these things.

"Without this support many people living with dementia lose confidence, become frightened of going out and withdraw. Their well-being is severely impacted."

Mr Rook said sufferers and their families deserved adequate support and treatment as a right, but that some were being short-changed at present.

He added: "People living with and affected by dementia have lawful rights under several national and international laws to appropriate health care in order to continue to live their lives as they choose. This is not optional. It is a human right."

Dr Julie Davies, director of performance and delivery at Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, defended the service provided in the county.

She said: "Shropshire CCG developed the Dementia Strategy through a joint funded commissioning post with Shropshire Council.

"Since the development of this, Shropshire CCG and Shropshire Council have funded the development of dementia companion pilots.

"The aim of the pilots is to understand the impact and quality of life benefits that this approach to post-diagnostic support can achieve.

"The pilot evaluation concludes in 2018/19 and this information will be used to determine how best to meet the post-diagnostic needs of people living with dementia.

"In addition to this development, the CCG is in the process of developing enhanced community based services for people with complex health needs – Shropshire Care Closer to Home Transformation Programme.

"Many of these people are likely to have a diagnosis of dementia.

"It is therefore crucial to the future development of NHS services in Shropshire that the CCG understands the learnings from the dementia companion pilots in order to deliver services that are sustainable and fit for purpose."

Shropshire Council was not available for comment.

June 16


Casualty

8.20pm
With Dylan nowhere to be found, Connie and Elle are forced to work together to pitch for funding for a new trauma centre. Bea grows concerned for Alicia.


The Help

11.45pm
An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis.


Take Me Out Celebrity Special

6.25pm
Former international rugby player Thom Evans, radio and TV presenter Roman Kemp, and 5ive's Ritchie Neville all enter Paddy McGuinness's 'love lift', in the hope of securing a date.


Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It

4.25pm
Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help the Clayton-Fisher family who have fallen out of love with their home in Walthamstow.

saturday


Cricket on 5

7pm
England v Australia. Featuring highlights of the second one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.

10.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. France v Australia (Kick-off 11.00am). Mark Chapman presents coverage of the opening Group C contest, which takes place at Kazan Arena in Russia. BBC News; Weather.

1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R)

1.30 Escape to the Continent. Alistair Appleton takes a Doncaster couple house-hunting in Alicante, finding out if there are any Spanish properties that can persuade them to move from their South Yorkshire home. (R)

3.30 Britain's Best Home Cook. The semi-final sees the remaining four hopefuls serve a selection of canapés for a drinks party before creating a dish using either orange or ginger as the key ingredient. (R)

4.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018. Peru v Denmark (Kick-off 5.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of both countries' opening Group C fixture, which takes place at Mordovia Arena in Saransk, Russia. Los Incas reached this stage after finishing fifth in the CONMEBOL qualification group behind Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia. They then overcame New Zealand 2-0 in a two-legged inter-confederation play-off to qualify for their fifth World Cup finals - and first since the 1982 tournament in Spain. The Danes finished second in qualifying behind Poland, and defeated the Republic of Ireland in their play-off match. A 0-0 draw in Copenhagen was followed by a sensational 5-1 victory in Dublin, with Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Christian Eriksen scoring a hat-trick to lead Denmark to what is also their fifth finals. With commentary by Simon Brotherton and Kevin Kilbane. BBC News.

7.10 Midlands Today; Weather.

7.30 Pointless. Celebrities. Alistair McGowan, Ronni Ancona, Jon Culshaw, Jan Ravens, Rory Bremer, Matt Forde, Francine Lewis and Danny Posthill all take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

8.20 Casualty. With Dylan nowhere to be found, Connie and Elle are forced to work together to pitch for funding for a new trauma centre. Bea grows concerned for Alicia.

9.10 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Brendan O'Carroll's alter ego is joined at home by guests Alan Davies, Marvin and Rochelle Humes and Wayne Bridge, with music from Picture This.

10.10 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights. Dan Walker introduces action from four group matches - France v Australia, Peru v Denmark, Argentina v Iceland and Croatia v Nigeria.

11.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay. Argentina v Iceland. A full re-run of the opening match in Group D, as the teams faced each other at Spartak Stadium in Moscow, with Iceland making their World Cup bow.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.

1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R)

6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.

7.10 The Pets Factor.

7.30 The Dengineers.

8.00 Absolute Genius Super Tech with Dick & Dom.

8.30 Natural Born Winners. The athletes learn Turkish oil wrestling. (R)

9.30 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? The finalists go to the shuttle landing site on Florida's Space Coast. Last in the series. (R)

10.30 Simply Nigella. (R)

11.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British. The history behind famous dishes. (R)

11.45 Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Nottingham, Portsmouth and Crewe. (R)

12.45 Wanted Down Under. A couple from the UK trial living in Auckland, New Zealand, for a week. (R)

1.30 The World According to Kids. The children discuss the adult world. Last in the series. (R)

2.30 Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. The group decide to open a restaurant on the farm. (R)

3.30 Demolition: The Wrecking Crew. Hull's tallest building is brought down to the ground. Last in the series. (R)

4.30 Choose the Right Puppy for You. Part one of two. A guide to buying a dog. (R)

5.30 The River Wye with Will Millard. The writer and angler travels along the waterway.

6.00 Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? Students face their mock GCSEs, while the head teachers of Erith and Townley announce a plan to bring both schools into the same trust. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)

7.30 FILM: Earth: One Amazing Day (2017). Premiere. Robert Redford narrates this feature-length wildlife documentary following various different creatures to chart the story of life on Earth over the course of a single day.

9.00 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Kirsty Wark and Jayson Mansaray follow preparations for the annual art exhibition, meeting this year's curator Grayson Perry and some of the celebrities who have submitted work.

10.00 All Girls Live at the Apollo. A female-only special of the comedy show, featuring Jo Brand, Joanne Rivers, Aisling Bea, Kerry Godliman, Nina Conti, Luisa Omielan, Gina Yashere, Angela Barnes and Holly Walsh.

10.45 Later Weekend with Jools Holland. With performances by Nile Rodgers & Chic with Cosha and Mura Masa, Gaz Coombes, Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats, Nakharne, Goat Girl and Chas & Dave. Last in the series.

11.45 FILM: The Help (2011). An aspiring journalist in 1960s Mississippi creates controversy by giving black servants the chance to tell their stories. Drama, starring Emma Stone and Viola Davis.

2.05 Civilisations on Your Doorstep. (R)

3.05 This Is BBC2.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05 Ninjago: Tournament of Elements 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird

8.25 ITV News.

8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday.

9.25 Midsummer Murders. (R)

11.20 Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R)

12.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.

12.30 The Best of the Voice Worldwide. Highlights of the various worldwide editions of the singing competition.

1.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Argentina v Iceland (Kick-off 2.00pm). Coverage of the opening match in Group D, as the teams face each other at the Spartak Stadium in Moscow.

4.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. (R)

5.00 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

6.00 ITV News and Weather.

6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.

6.25 Take Me Out Celebrity Special. Former international rugby player Thom Evans, radio and TV presenter Roman Kemp, and 5ive's Ritchie Neville all enter Paddy McGuinness's 'love lift', in the hope of securing a date. (H)

7.30 FIFA World Cup 2018. Croatia v Nigeria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the match at the Kaliningrad Stadium in Russia, where the teams play their opening Group D contest. This will be the fifth World Cup the Croats have participated in, and they will hope to improve on their three most recent tournaments, all of which saw them lose their opening contest, before crashing out at the group stage. The one time they did win their first fixture was during their debut at France 98, when they registered a 3-1 win over Jamaica and qualified second in their group, and eventually finished third after beating the Netherlands in the third-place play-off. The Super Eagles have also got off to a slow start at their three most recent World Cup appearances, losing to Argentina in 2002 and 2010, while drawing 0-0 with Iran four years ago in Brazil, and a fast start could be imperative to their prospects of reaching the knockout stage given they will next face an unknown quantity in Iceland, before re-acquainting themselves with old foes Argentina. Presented by Mark Pougatch.

10.15 ITV News and Weather; Weather.

10.35 FILM: Rocky II (1979). Retired boxer Rocky Balboa is tempted back into the ring for another shot at Apollo Creed's heavyweight title. Drama sequel, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire and Carl Weathers.

12.50 Jackpot247.

3.00 Mr Selfridge. (R)

3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

6.05 Mobil 1: The Grid. Previewing the return of the French Grand Prix to the F1 calendar.

6.35 Triathlon: Blenheim Palace. Action from the event in Oxfordshire.

7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray thinks he is at death's door. (R)

7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray tries to bribe Delia. (R)

8.20 Frasier. Martin and Frasier become love rivals. (R)

8.45 Frasier. Roz organises a date for Frasier. (R)

9.15 Frasier. Martin accuses Frasier of eavesdropping. (R)

9.45 The Big Bang Theory. Amy is attracted to one of Penny's former boyfriends. (R)

10.10 The Big Bang Theory. The guys make fun of Penny's boyfriend Zack. (R)

10.40 The Simpsons. A comet heads for Springfield. (R)

11.10 The Simpsons. Homer asks Patty and Selma for help. (R)

11.40 Come Dine with Me. Four dinner parties in Portsmouth and Southampton. (R)

12.40 Four in a Bed. The competition kicks off at the White Hart Hotel in Harrogate. (R)

1.15 Four in a Bed. The second visit is to budget option New Promenade Hotel in Blackpool. (R)

1.45 Four in a Bed. Vicky Crawford welcomes guests to The Terrace in Oxford. (R)

2.20 Four in a Bed. The guests are wowed by Robin and Liza's Brecon Beacons manor house. (R)

2.50 Four in a Bed. White Hart Hotel duo Clarky and Katie raise the issue of paying for their car park. (R)

3.20 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Frans and Julie Mampaeki from Berkshire search for a holiday home in Almeria, Spain. (R)

4.25 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help a family who have fallen out of love with their home in Walthamstow. (R)

5.30 Channel 4 News.

6.00 FILM: Snow White & the Huntsman (2012). A princess joins forces with the warrior sent to kill her to overthrow an evil queen. Fantasy adventure, starring Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth and Charlize Theron.

8.20 Live International Rugby Union. Argentina v Wales (Kick-off 8.40pm). Lee McKenzie presents coverage of the international fixture, staged at the Estadio Brigadier Lopez in Santa Fe.

10.55 FILM: A Million Ways to Die in the West (2014). A timid farmer tries to become a gunslung Wild West hero to impress a mysterious woman. Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane, with Charlize Theron.

1.05 Ramsay's Hotel Hell. Part two of two. Gordon Ramsay uncovers more problems at the Juniper Hill Inn. (R)

1.55 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. James wants to make sure Harry is back on the straight and narrow. (R)

4.05 My Kitchen Rules. A group have to make canapes for 40 guests. (R)

5.00 Jamie's Comfort Food. (R)

5.10 Cheap Cheap Cheap. Kelly shows off her gymnastic skills and Keith gets everyone a takeaway. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Olly the Little White Van 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.20 Thomas & Friends 7.40 Fireman Sam 7.55 Rusty Rivets 8.10 Paw Patrol 8.25 Nella the Princess Knight 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.00 Floogals 9.10 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.25 Shimmy and Shine 9.45 Digby Dragon 10.00 Peppa Pig 10.05 Peppa Pig

10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)

10.35 The Gadget Show. (R)

11.35 Funniest Dogs Behaving Badly. (R)

12.20 Funniest Ever Toddlers Tantrums. Internet videos featuring youngsters doing bizarre and humorous things. (R)

1.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Harrow Council carry out raids on uninhabitable properties. (R)

2.15 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A young mum is locked out of her own home. (R)

3.10 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. The enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes. (R)

4.05 Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies. A tearful woman accuses her landlord of fleecing her for extra rent. (R)

5.00 5 News Weekend.

5.05 Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. New series. The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show.

6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies. New series. In Hampshire, first-time mum Beans, a Hungarian vizsla, gives birth to 12 healthy puppies and an unlucky 13th, Gilbert, who faces a challenge to get his legs working.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the second one-day international in the five-match series, which took place at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

7.40 Before They Were Stars. New series. Susan Calman presents this trek back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame, including Game of Thrones stars in daytime soaps.

8.30 Blind Date. New series. Paul O'Grady hosts a revival of the dating show in which 25-year-old Georgie girl Cali and Irish mummy's boy Barry must choose between three unseen suitors.

9.30 20 Moments That Rocked Talent Shows. A journey through the instances that rocked the genre and the fall-out that followed. Clips feature Will Young, Cheryl, Susan Boyle and Lena Zavoroni. (R)

11.05 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino.

3.10 FILM: The Green Hornet (2011). Comic-book adventure, starring Seth Rogen.

4.05 Access.

5.00 Divine Designs. (R)

5.10 Nick's Quest. (R)

June 17


Antiques Roadshow
8pm

Fiona Bruce presents the show from Newcastle's Civic Centre, where artefacts brought in to be valued include an impressive crossbow and a collection of plans for RMS Mauretania.


Expedition Volcano
8pm

Part one of two. Documentary following scientists studying volcanoes in the Congo, beginning with Nyiragongo, which has erupted twice in the last 50 years.


Celebrity Catchphrase
9.15pm

Stephen Mulhern hosts a special World Cup edition of the game show, with contestants John Barnes, Helen Chamberlain and Chris Kamara trying to guess familiar phrases.


The Swingers
10.05pm

The first episode of the second series of the Dutch drama exploring the dark side of suburbia. Steef is in jail following a confrontation, but does not plan on staying there.


Mamma Mia! The Story of the World's Favourite Musical
9pm

The enduring appeal of the hit stage and movie musical set to the songs of Abba, with contributions from celebrity fans and cast members.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 Sunday Morning Live.**
- 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands.**
- 12.15 BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.30 Bargain Hunt. (R)**
- 1.10 Escape to the Country.**
- 1.40 Points of View. Viewers' comments.**
- 1.55 Songs of Praise.**
- 2.30 Britain's Best Home Cook.** The final sees the remaining contestants serve up a summer favourite, and their best main course and pudding, hoping it will be enough to clinch the title. Last in the series. (R)
- 3.30 MOTD Live: FIFA World Cup 2018.** Germany v Mexico (Kick-off 4.00pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the opening Group F fixture, which takes place at Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow. Reigning champions Die Mannschaft begin the defence of the title they won in Brazil four years ago here against El Tri, who have remarkably reached the last-16 stage of the past six World Cup tournaments. Joachim Löw's side qualified with characteristic efficiency, winning all 10 of their games, scoring 43 goals and conceding just four to finish 11 points clear of second-placed Northern Ireland. Mexico finished top of the CONCACAF qualifying table, joining Costa Rica and Panama at the tournament ahead of Honduras, USA and Trinidad & Tobago. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce and Phil Neville, and analysis by Rio Ferdinand and Alan Shearer.
- 6.10 A Question of Sport.** With double Olympic gold medal-winning swimmer Rebecca Adlington, world snooker champion Mark Selby, England cricketer Samit Patel and Great Britain 400m hurdler Dai Greene. (R)
- 6.40 BBC News.**
- 6.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 7.00 Countryfile.** Sean Fletcher, Margherita Taylor and Steve Brown present the show from Northern Ireland. Plus, Tom Heap talks to James Dyson about his ideas for the future of British farming.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Newcastle's Civic Centre, where artefacts brought in to be valued include an impressive crossbow and a collection of plans for RMS Mauretania.
- 9.00 Poldark.** The Enyses announce they are having a baby, while Hugh's failing health threatens his chances of standing for election and puts more pressure on the Poldarks' failing marriage.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Highlights.** Mark Chapman introduces action from the latest group matches, featuring Brazil v Switzerland in Rostov-on-Don, Costa Rica v Serbia in Samara and Germany v Mexico in Moscow.
- 11.20 The World Cup: Hopes of a Nation.** A look at England's star players in World Cups. (R)
- 11.55 MOTD: FIFA World Cup 2018 Replay.** Brazil v Switzerland. A chance to see in full the Group E match.
- 1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.15 Coast.** The Great Storm of 1703. (R)
- 6.45 Glorious Gardens from Above.** Christine Walkden visits Bodnant Garden in Snowdonia. (R)
- 7.30 Gardeners' World.** Highlights of the plants and designs at Gardeners' World Live. (R)
- 8.30 Countryfile.** The last of three royal specials from the Sandringham estate. (R)
- 9.25 The Beechgrove Garden.** The whole Beechgrove team are on the road to Perth.
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 11.30 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge.** With guests Dominic Littlewood and Gennaro Contaldo. (R)
- 12.10 FILM: Carmen Jones (1954).** Romantic musical drama, starring Dorothy Dandridge and Harry Belafonte.
- 1.55 FILM: The Odd Life of Timothy Green (2012).** Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner.
- 3.30 Money for Nothing.** Makeovers for a battered suitcase, a wingback chair and an old table top. (R)
- 4.15 Flog It!** Paul Martin presents from Wolverhampton Art Gallery. (R)
- 5.00 Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** Si King and Dave Myers celebrate British dairy products. (R)
- 6.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel assess the profit-making potential of selling advertising space on the move, a scheme for improving children's handwriting, and a motorcycle chain-tensioning product. (R)
- 7.00 Million Pound Menu.** A husband and wife want to bring bubble-and-squeak to the masses and a former cookery school teacher has a dream of opening his own restaurant. But both need investment. (R)
- 8.00 Expedition Volcano.** Part one of two. Documentary following scientists studying volcanoes in the Congo, beginning with Nyiragongo, which has erupted twice in the last 50 years. (R)
- 9.00 Managing England: The Impossible Job.** A look at the history of the role of England football manager, featuring interviews with current boss Gareth Southgate and former incumbents including Sven Goran-Eriksson.
- 10.00 Atlanta.** Eamn accompanies Van to an up-market Juneteenth soiree, where the pair pose as man and wife in an effort to help Van secure some vital networking contacts.
- 10.25 Atlanta.** Eamn's jacket goes missing after a house party. Determined to track it down, he re-traces his steps, and manages to tie up a few loose ends in the process. Last in the series.
- 10.50 FILM: Begin Again (2013).** A disgraced record executive begins a life-changing collaboration with a singer he meets in New York's East Village. Comedy drama, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo.
- 12.30 Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from Caernarfon, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
- 1.30 Sign Zone: Holy City.** Meena uncovers disturbing news that could spell trouble for Gaskell. (R)
- 2.30 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05 Ninjago: Tournament of Elements 7.30 The Haunted Hathaways 7.55 Drop Dead Weird**
- 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Zoe Ball on Sunday.** With Stephen Bailey and Ralf Little.
- 9.25 The Martin Lewis Money Show Live.** (R)
- 10.20 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)**
- 11.20 The Best of the Voice Worldwide.**
- 12.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 12.30 FIFA World Cup 2018.** Costa Rica v Serbia (Kick-off 1.00pm). All the action from the opening match in Group E, which comes from the Samara Arena in Russia.
- 3.15 Catchphrase.** Guessing game. (R)
- 4.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** (R)
- 5.00 The Chase.** Quiz show. (R)
- 6.00 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.30**

Channel 4

- 6.05 The King of Queens.** Doug thinks a waitress is attracted to him. (R)
- 6.30 Motorsport: GT Silverstone.** The Silverstone 500.
- 7.30 Eat the Week.** Simon Rimmer prepares meals for a family with varying tastes. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** Part one of two. Niles' former wife Maris asks for his help. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** Part two of two. Niles is suspected of being an accomplice to murder. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests Paul Whitehouse, Bob Mortimer, Jason Mraz and Jonny Bairstow.
- 12.30 Bake Off: The Professionals.** The teams face a secret recipe challenge. (R)
- 1.30 The Simpsons.** Homer enrolls in clown college. (R)
- 1.55 The Simpsons.** Homer goes back to college. (R)
- 2.25 FILM: Volcano (1997).** Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones.
- 4.30 Location, Location, Location.** Including a couple who have outgrown their home in Didsbury. (R)
- 5.35 Bang on Budget.** Creating a country-style kitchen in a dated Newport home.
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Escape to the Chateau.** Series following a family's efforts to restore a French chateau. In the first edition, Dick and Angel have their hands full as they prepare to host seven weddings. (R)
- 8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals.** Liam Charles and Tom Allen host the next stage of the contest, in which the three best teams from both sets of heats take each other on to make romantic sugar showpieces.
- 9.00 The Handmaid's Tale.** A Gilead ceremony disrupts Offred's relationship with Nick. Janine tries to adjust to life in the Colonies, jeopardizing her friendship with Emily.
- 10.05 The Swingers.** The first episode of the second series of the Dutch drama exploring the dark side of suburbia. Steef is in jail following a confrontation, but does not plan on staying there. The full series is available online.
- 10.55 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Sean Lock teams up with Andrew Flintoff to compete against guest captain Bill Bailey and team-mate Roisin Conaty in the comedy panel quiz show mash-up. Presented by Jimmy Carr. (R)
- 12.00 FILM: All Is Lost (2013).** Thriller, starring Robert Redford.
- 1.50 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Endangered black rhino Kitani is introduced to new mate at Chester Zoo. (R)
- 2.45 Mobil 1: The Grid.** Previewing the return of the French Grand Prix to the F1 calendar. (R)
- 3.10 Gillette World Sport.** A lesson in basketball with the Valencia Basket Club.
- 3.40 My Kitchen Rules.** Two teams from Group A compete for a place in the Quarter Final. (R)
- 4.35 Jackpot247.**
- 4.40 Wedding Town.** (R)
- 5.05 Cheap Cheap Cheap.** Noel Edmonds has a problem with swans. (R)

Channel 5

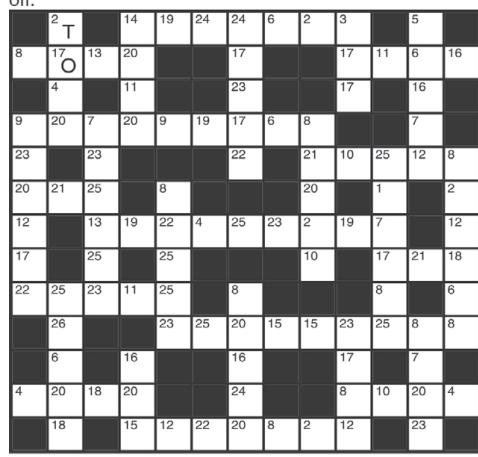
- 6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.38 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Olly the Little White Van 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.35 Fireman Sam 7.50 Rusty Rivets 8.05 Paw Patrol 8.20 Nella the Princess Knight 8.35 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.55 Floogals 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20 Shimmer and Shine 9.40 Digby Dragon 9.55 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig**
- 10.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** Donnie is bitten and the Time Sceptre is stolen. (R)
- 10.45 Britain's Greatest Bridges.** The story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge. (R)
- 10.55 Police Interceptors.** Jacko and the team box in a van carrying large quantities of cannabis. (R)
- 11.45 Police Interceptors.** Officers raid a pirate radio station. (R)
- 12.45 Funniest Cutest Kittens Ever.** Compilation of comical clips involving cats. (R)
- 1.45 FILM: One Chance (2013).** Fact-based comedy drama, starring James Corden. **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.
- 2.45 FILM: Volcano (1997).** Disaster thriller, starring Tommy Lee Jones.
- 4.30 Location, Location, Location.** Including a couple who have outgrown their home in Didsbury. (R)
- 5.35 Bang on Budget.** Creating a country-style kitchen in a dated Newport home.
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- 4.35 Jackpot247.**
- 4.40 Wedding Town.** (R)
- 5.05 Cheap Cheap Cheap.** Noel Edmonds has a problem with swans. (R)



To advertise in this space call Bev Thompson on 01691 668092

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	T	2	R	3	O	4	D	N	B	A	P	K	G	Z	H	Y	J								
14	Q	15	M	16	F	17	S	18	X	19	I	20	E	21	W	22	U	23	V	24	L	25	C	26	J

Quiz

- Who played Fred's mother-in-law in the 1994 live action film The Flintstones?
- In which country did King Farouk abdicate in 1952?
- Which Beatles song was covered by 1,186 performers in its first seven years?
- What type of animal is the blackcap?
- On which Scottish island was John Smith buried?
- On what date does Epiphany fall?
- Which artform uses labanotation?
- Which food sustained the Israelites in the wilderness?
- In which country is Doi Inthanon the highest mountain?
- In which year was the Suez Crisis?

Double Crossword

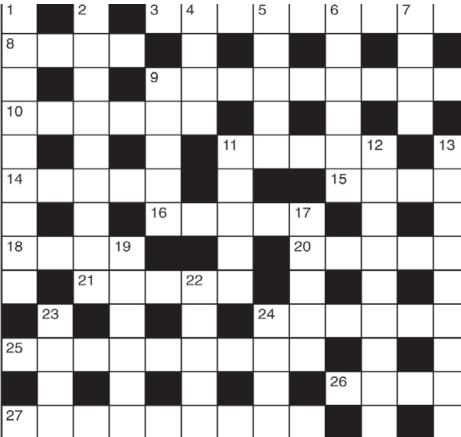
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Plenty in favour of a merger (9)
- Dash from Iceland (4)
- Sluggard making little progress with a tutor (9)
- Class a number as precise (6)
- Almost rate as fools (5)
- Rob with a gun (5)
- Absorbed with a new part (4)
- Wounds in a most absent-minded way (5)
- A vessel that has been taken out of the water (4)
- Acted strangely for a Service trainee (5)
- Stretch - of river? (5)
- Others acquire their habits from him (6)
- Went to pieces when praised (7,2)
- Norwegians live in what was Czechoslovakia (4)
- Pay a visit after some persuasion? (4,5)

Down

- Man of action, in his turn (9)
- Not a bad bid for the roundabouts? (4,5)
- List a waiter may be asked for (4)
- Colours and becomes servile (5)
- Rather earlier (6)
- Not often seen in London certainly! (4)
- These are sure to be brisk for beer on board (5)
- Partly under water from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)
- Old-timer (9)
- Specify space available for a first-class passenger (9)
- Throw away a fight? (5)
- Possibly secure and free from danger (6)
- Communist firm about belief (5)
- After hesitation leave thus (4)
- A diverting act? (4)
- Consequences (9)
- Immaturity (9)
- Small (4)
- Time (5)
- Affair (6)
- Mid-day (4)
- Concur (5)
- Bit (5)
- Devoted (9)
- Retainer (9)
- Seized (5)
- Plan (6)
- Sat for picture (5)
- Conceal (4)
- In adversity (4)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Declaration (9)
- Shape (4)
- Liveliness (9)
- Vigour (6)
- Pondered (5)
- Chop finely (5)
- Tear (4)
- Occurrence (5)
- Fling (4)
- Get up (5)
- Compass (5)
- Claim (6)
- Detour (9)
- Signify (4)
- The accused (9)

Down

- Consequences (9)
- Immaturity (9)
- Small (4)
- Time (5)
- Affair (6)
- Mid-day (4)
- Concur (5)
- Bit (5)
- Devoted (9)
- Retainer (9)
- Seized (5)
- Plan (6)
- Sat for picture (5)
- Conceal (4)
- In adversity (4)

Sudoku

4			9			7		
	3		6	5	1			
7		5	1			4		
9	8							
2		3	4		9			
		7	4	6				
8	1	6		5				
6	4		5	7				
2		7	6	8				

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
2 7 3 8 6 9 5 1 4
6 5 9 3 1 4 8 7 2
1 8 4 2 5 7 6 3 9
5 1 7 9 8 3 4 2 6
9 6 2 5 4 1 7 8 3
3 4 8 6 7 2 1 9 5
7 3 5 4 2 8 9 6 1
8 2 6 1 9 5 3 4 7
4 9 1 7 3 6 2 5 8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cold; 3 Educator; 8 Neon; 9 Returned; 11 Poor relation; 13 Rating; 14 Grocer; 17 Prison record; 20 Primates; 21 Zinc; 22 Speedier; 23 Aged. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Look out; 4 Dwells; 5 Court order; 6 Tango; 7 Ride; 10 Grandstand; 12 Produced; 15 Crowning; 16 Inhere; 18 Raise; 19 Opus; QUICK - Across: 1 Pact; 3 Dampness; 8 Real; 9 Predator; 11 Embarrassing; 13 Strict; 14 Proper; 17 Evil speaking; 20 Extended; 21 Maze; 22 Besieged; 23 Less. Down: 1 Perverse; 2 Chamber; 4 Airman; 5 Pedestrian; 6 Eaten; 7 Sure; 10 Truculence; 12 Progress; 15 Private; 16 Sphere; 18 Votes; 19 Herb.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

16345276
1278
9537

gives a small animal,
gives a second small animal,
gives small particles.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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CNC Machinist - Turning

Llangollen Railway are looking for a CNC lathe operator on a short terms contract for an initial period of three months to join their engineering department. The Llangollen Railway is the only standard gauge heritage railway in North Wales. The line follows the picturesque River Dee, for its entire length, passing through some of the finest natural beauty North Wales has to offer and operates both steam and diesel locomotives. The engineering department undertake the maintenance, restoration and new build of steam locomotives, to support both the running of the Llangollen Railway and also for external customers on a contract basis.

The principle requirement is for a CNC lathe operator to produce batches of boiler stays in steel and also in high value materials such as arsenical copper, using an XYZ ProTrax SLX 425 lathe.

The position will be based at the engineering works in Llangollen and will be for a nominal 40hours per week, from 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Additional hours may be available. Please email your CV to info@llangollen-railway.co.uk. The position will pay £12 per hour.

Manual Machinist - Turning and Milling

Llangollen Railway are looking for a manual machinist on a short term contract for an initial period of three months to join their engineering department. The Llangollen Railway is the only standard gauge heritage railway in North Wales. The line follows the picturesque River Dee, for its entire length, passing through some of the finest natural beauty North Wales has to offer and operates both steam and diesel locomotives. The engineering department undertake the maintenance, restoration and new build of steam locomotives, to support both the running of the Llangollen Railway and also for external customers on a contract basis.

The principle requirement is for a machinist to produce components for steam locomotives using Cincinnati and Huron Mills, Colchester lathes and a Boring machine. The candidate will be expected to produce components from drawings and perform inspection measurements on completed components. Experience or an interest in fitting work would be an advantage.

The position will be based at the engineering works in Llangollen and will be for a nominal 40hours per week, from 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Additional hours may be available. Please email your CV to info@llangollen-railway.co.uk. The position will pay £12 per hour.

Experienced Steam Locomotive Fitter

Llangollen Railway are looking for an experienced steam locomotive fitter on a permanent basis to join their engineering department. The Llangollen Railway is the only standard gauge heritage railway in North Wales. The line follows the picturesque River Dee, for its entire length, passing through some of the finest natural beauty North Wales has to offer and operates both steam and diesel locomotives.

The engineering department undertake the maintenance, restoration and new build of steam locomotives, to support both the running of the Llangollen Railway and also for external customers on a contract basis.

The principle requirement is for an experienced steam locomotive fitter to perform the following tasks:

- Regular inspections according to detailed procedures and the completion of locomotive examination reports
- To perform the necessary maintenance and repairs on the Llangollen Railway's running fleet
- To contribute to the restoration of locomotive chassis and running gear
- To contribute to the build of new steam locomotives.

The fitter role will be primarily focussed on the chassis and running gear, and therefore a thorough understanding of locomotive chassis, wheel sets, axle boxes, horns, brake systems, piston and valve gear will be required. Previous experience of firing or driving steam locomotives would be an advantage.

The position will be based at the engineering works in Llangollen and will be for a nominal 40hours per week, from 8.00am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

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No disappointment in performance

By Graham Breeze

If like most you associate the Lexus brand with big, luxurious and hybrid prepare to be shocked by the RC F Carbon from Toyota's premium car division.

The V8 powered RC F performance coupe comes in an expanded range for 2018 and the mouth-watering Carbon 5 litre auto, recently tested, proved just how diverse a range the company now has.

This is a Lexus like no other. It's bold, brash and sometimes downright rude in performance – attracting admiring glances at every turn and encouraging the driver to let passers-by hear the growl of the enormous five litre engine.

The suits at Lexus clearly recognise the need to compete in the lucrative sports car market where the likes of Jaguar, Audi, BMW, Porsche and Mercedes go head-to-head and you get the feeling the RC F may be more popular across the pond because of its fuel-guzzling attributes.

All now come equipped with Lexus Safety System+, including a Pre-Collision System and Adaptive Cruise Control, and there is an additional Custom setting for the Drive Mode Select. Even the standard RC F is fitted with new-design 19-inch alloy wheels with machined finish, while in the cabin the heated front seats have a new Alcantara trim.

Other standard features include an active/retractable rear spoiler, Brembo brakes, Adaptive Variable Suspension, LED headlights, front and rear parking sensors, reversing camera, Lexus Premium Navigation, 10-speaker audio system with DAB and DVD player and a 10.3-inch multimedia screen.

Like its RC coupe counterpart, the RC F has a new automatic "away" function for the



The cabin is luxurious

power-adjustable driver's seat and steering column, for easy entry and exit.

The new RC F Plus Pack builds specification with 19-inch forged alloys, semi-aniline leather upholstery, front seat ventilation, a card key and leather F-style steering wheel with leather trim and integrated heater.

The active safety provisions extend to a Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Cross Traffic Alert and Lane Change Assist. The audio package is also upgraded to a bespoke 17-speaker Mark Levinson premium hi-fi system. This model can also be specified with an optional sunroof and torque-vectoring differential.

The RC F Carbon specification includes CFRP carbon composite roof, bonnet and rear spoiler, Alcantara upholstery, carbon fibre trim inserts, torque vectoring differential and genuine 19-inch forged alloys.

A new Leather Pack option is available, consisting of semi-aniline leather upholstery, a ventilation function for the front seats and a heated steering wheel.

At best you would describe the ride as "firm" – not the ideal car to take Granny for a Sunday



The suits at Lexus clearly recognise the need to compete in the lucrative sports car market

drive in. And for such a big 2+2 coupe back seat space really is disappointing. Folding in a 16-stone six-footer for a 30 mile journey really was a mistake not to be repeated.

Up-front it's a different story with loads of adjustments available to seating to help find the right spot for comfortable driving with attractive F Sport steering wheel and gear lever. But the slightly offset pedals take a bit of getting used to.

This is a sports car where performance will be all-important to the buyer and there will be no disappointment there. There's a top speed

limited to 168mph and 0-62mph in just 4.5 seconds, though fuel consumption obviously suffers the firmer you are on the pedal.

Claimed combined figures of 26.2mpg proved hard to achieve.

It would be best to keep secret from any Green Party friends that CO₂ figures are at 252g/km and you can expect a hefty insurance bill to add to running costs with this model falling into the 50 grouping.

Some might find the driving mode options a bit too confusing. Eco, Normal, Sport S and Sport S+ pre-sets are available with additional

options for stability control a test for even the most seasoned sports car driver.

Lexus owners have long-benefitted from strong residual values but only those with the deeper pockets will be enthused by the £69,310 price tag. The test car clocked in at £74,730 thanks to the addition of torque vectoring grip, a pre-crash safety system and adaptive cruise control.

You'll also be expected to cough up around £500 per year road tax for the privilege of avoiding the nation's potholes and protecting the stunning alloys.



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07 Jaguar S Type 2.7 TD Auto, Blue, Leather	£4495	
08 Jaguar XF Sport, 2.7 TD Auto, Champagne Met, leather, 50k	£8975	

CAR OF THE WEEK

CAR OF THE WEEK		
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62 KIA SOUL CRDI, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, 32K	£6,695
11 VOLKSWAGEN POLO SEL TDI 900 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX, 58K	£6,495
64 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2, 3 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., BLUETOOTH, SERVICE HISTORY, 7K	£5,895
13 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION PLUS 16V 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 42K	£5,995
56 HONDA CRV 2.0 ES, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, 6 SPEED, SERVICE HISTORY 78K	SOLD
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10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K	£4,995
61 CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+, 5 DOOR, METALLIC BLUE, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY	£4,995
14 FORD KA EDGE, WHITE, AIR CON, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, £30 ROAD TAX, 33K	£4,895
13 FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK 3 DOOR, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING, 34K	£4,895
10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, £20 ROAD TAX, 52K	£4,695
14 FORD KA STUDIO, BRIGHT RED, FULL SERV. HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £30 ROAD TAX, 21K	£4,650
10 RENAULT CLIO 1.6 INITIALE T-TOM, AUTOMATIC MET, RED, LEATHER SEATS, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY, 46K	£4,495
11 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM 1.5 DCI 5 DOOR, SILVER, £20 ROAD TAX, 47K	£4,495
58 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, FULL SERVICE, ONE OWNER, 39K	£4,195
08 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY, 75K	£3,795
59 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 TCE 3 DOOR, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, 46K	£3,795
11 CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 28K	£3,695
10 TOYOTA AYGO PLATINUM SPECIAL EDITION, 3 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX, 60K	£3,399
07 TOYOTA YARIS TR, 5 DOOR, AIR CON, GREY, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, NEW	£3,250
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CARS OF THE WEEK

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There's a new book out on the iconic Morris Minor

Morris Minor – 70 years on the road

The postwar Morris Minor, designed by Alec Issigonis, was one of the most popular British cars. 2018 marks 70 years since the first Minors rolled off the production lines at Cowley in Oxfordshire.

In a celebratory publication Ray Newell looks in detail at the development of the wide range of models produced during a production run that spanned twenty two years in the UK.

Using mainly contemporary materials covering four decades, he transports the reader back to an era when the pace of life was much slower and the marketing of the vehicles was considerably different to the slick advertising of today.

The worldwide appeal of this trendsetting vehicle is examined in the context of the 'export or die' mentality that dominated postwar Britain, as are the innovative production methods used to ensure that 'Morris Motors Ltd' lived up to its 'quality first' reputation. Variations from standard specifications are considered with reference to mechanical uprating, different body styles and the use of modern accessories to enhance further the comfort and styling of what was dubbed 'The World's Supreme Small Car.' Issigonis sketches of the prototype cars, sales brochures, promotional materials, and rare and unusual photographs make this a fascinating book.

The continuing appeal of the car voted Britain's most popular classic in 2016 is examined, as are the factors which continue to attract a new generation of 21st century owners.

● Morris Minor by Ray Newell, ISBN: 9781787112070 £35.00

May saw 3.4 per cent increase in car sales



Latest figures see the decline of diesel continue. The UK's new car market returned to a small growth figure in May, with a sales increase of 3.4 per cent recorded.

According to figures released by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, total UK car sales in May numbered 192,649. The growth follows an 8.5 per cent decline in 2017, when sales were affected by the change in vehicle tax systems, which saw an artificially high April sales figure and an artificially low May one. 2018's figure is still down on May 2016, during which 203,585 cars were registered.

The latest figures see the decline of diesel continue, with the fuel now making up just 32.3 per cent of new sales compared with 43.8 per cent in 2017. Petrol has seen a corresponding rise, now commanding a 61.9 per cent market share compared with 51.8 per cent the year before.

Hybrids and electric cars also saw a large increase, with 11,240 vehicles registered – up from 8,258 in May 2017 and increasing the market share from 4.4 per cent to 5.8 per cent.

With May the hottest on record, it's no surprise that demand for convertible and specialist sports cars increased dramatically – up by 11.7 and 12.7 per cent respectively. Other market sectors also performed well, however, with supermini registrations up by six per cent and SUVs up by 19.2 per cent.

The Ford Fiesta remained the best-selling car nationwide with 6,896 registrations. It retains its position at the top of the year-to-date chart, shifting 47,515 units – ahead of the Volkswagen Golf with 33,057 and the Nissan Qashqai with 26,127.

Toyota boosting its cleaner motoring scrappage scheme

Throughout the rest of the month, people who wish to replace their old cars with a brand new Toyota Aygo city car will qualify for £2,000 off the price tag – adding an extra £500 to the current offer.

Aygo is the style-setter in its class, its compact dimensions and lively one-litre engine making it ideal for around-town driving, with the added benefits of low running costs and modest CO₂ emissions. And with a host of customisation options and vibrant colour schemes, customers can create just the look they want for their car.

Yaris Hybrid has been reintroduced to the wide range of Toyota models accessible through the scheme, with a customer saving of £1,500. The first hybrid electric model in the supermini market, Yaris Hybrid offers a winning combination of budget-friendly fuel economy, low emissions, top quality and stylish good looks. It also has a proven reputation for lasting quality and reliability.

The savings are available for cars ordered between now and June 30, and registered by September 10 this year. Even more savings may be enjoyed, as qualifying customers can take advantage of a range of Access Toyota finance offers for their new car purchase, including zero per cent APR deals, where available and subject to appropriate terms and conditions.

These offers add even more momentum to the Toyota scheme, which has already yielded more than 7,000 orders since its launch last September. Aygo is the top choice for customers, commanding more than 40 per cent of scrappage sales, while overall Toyota is proving the go-to brand as well, with conquest sales accounting for around 65 per cent of the total.

Mark Roden, Toyota (GB) operations director, said: "The response to our scrappage initiative has been excellent, with many customers taking the opportunity to move into cleaner and more efficient Toyota hybrid electric models in place of their old petrol and diesel cars. With the extra incentives we have added for the coming month, we're expecting this positive momentum to continue, introducing more people to the Toyota brand and the quality of our extensive product line-up."

In outline, the scrappage scheme enables owners of cars and commercial vehicles – both petrol and diesel – registered up to and including 30 June 2010, to trade in their vehicle against a qualifying new Toyota car or light commercial vehicle. Customers must have owned their vehicle for a minimum of six months. Other terms and conditions apply, full details are available or from Toyota retailers.

All vehicles taken off the road through the scheme are processed at authorised treatment facilities managed by Autogreen. After the safe removal of all pollutants and the recovery of retrievable parts, shredding and recovery is handled by EMR. Together these processes meet the legal requirement of a minimum 95 per cent recycling by vehicle weight.



Yaris Hybrid has been reintroduced to the wide range of Toyota models accessible through the scheme



Aygo is the top choice for customers, commanding more than 40 per cent of scrappage sales

Changes needed for long-term safety

As learner drivers take to the motorways for the first time in England, Scotland and Wales, road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist says some fundamental changes in the whole learning process are necessary to bring down casualties.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth said: "Driving on the motorway for the first time can be a daunting experience, so although we welcome the opportunity for learners to drive on the motorway while accompanied by a qualified driving instructor, we believe few will bother because they won't be tested on it."

"However the new scheme makes accompanied driving available for learners as an option. It's not a requirement and will not be assessed in the driving test, so we see few, if any, safety benefits."

"We believe motorway driving should be mandatory for all learners, as experience should show that optional learning opportunities simply don't work. Take Pass Plus, for example. It's a great idea to offer an additional programme of post-test experience building for newly-qualified drivers. But the average uptake today is just three per cent."

"The Government should learn from

experience and take steps to mandate a new learning system that's fit for purpose."

Figures from the Department for Transport show that 20 per cent of all fatalities on Britain's roads in 2016 involved a driver aged between 17 and 24, although they make up just seven per cent of licence holders.

GEM has long supported the introduction of graduated driving licensing ('GDL'), which provides an important intermediate element between learner and full licence holder, and allows new drivers to build up their skills and experience over a period of time, using clearly-marked stages.

Where versions of GDL are already in place, the reduction in young and novice driver collisions has been remarkable," according to Neil Worth. "Research from TRL in 2013 shows that 16-year-old drivers in the USA who learnt to drive through GDL systems 15 years ago had 37 per cent fewer crashes than those who followed other systems."

"Elsewhere, following the introduction of GDL in New Zealand, injuries from road traffic collisions reduced by almost a quarter for 15- to 19-year olds."

In 2017, more than 90 per cent of drivers in a GEM survey gave their support to a



Driving on the motorway for the first time can be a daunting experience

graduated driver licensing system. This, they said, should include:

- A ban on novice drivers carrying passengers aged under 25
- A night-time driving curfew, unless driving to or from work
- Drivers should hold 'novice' status for two years after passing the test
- Automatic disqualification for any driving offence

How they stand

Birmingham & District Premier Cricket League

Premier Division 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Shrewsbury	7	5	0	2	0	0	118
WB Dartmouth	7	4	1	1	0	1	105
Berkswell	7	3	1	2	0	1	95
Knowle & D	7	4	0	2	0	1	94
Smethwick	7	3	1	2	0	1	92
Dorridge	7	3	0	3	0	1	79
Moseley	7	3	0	4	0	0	79
Ombersley	7	2	2	2	0	1	75
Kenilworth W	7	2	1	3	0	1	72
Walsall	7	2	1	3	0	1	62
Barnet Green	7	1	1	4	0	1	57
Wolverhampton	7	1	0	5	0	1	46

Division One 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Tamworth	7	6	0	0	1	125	
Kidderminster	7	5	0	2	0	109	
Shifnal	7	4	1	2	0	91	
Bromsgrove	7	3	0	3	0	83	
Halesowen	7	2	1	3	0	81	
Barnards Green	7	3	1	2	0	79	
Hinley	7	3	1	2	0	77	
Leamington	7	2	1	3	0	74	
Bridgnorth	7	2	1	4	0	70	
Oswestry	7	2	1	3	0	70	
Wellington	7	1	1	5	0	47	
Brockhampton	7	1	0	5	0	46	

Division Two 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Penkridge	7	4	0	1	1	109	
Walney	7	4	0	2	0	96	
C & R Hawks	7	4	0	2	0	93	
Harborne	7	2	3	1	0	92	
Pershore	7	3	1	2	0	85	
Wombourne	7	3	1	3	0	84	
Sutton Coldfield	7	3	1	2	0	81	
Atcock	7	2	1	3	0	80	
Fordhouses	7	2	0	4	1	80	
Coventry & N.W.	7	2	1	3	0	62	
Streetly	7	2	0	4	1	60	
Astwood Bank	7	1	0	5	0	42	

Division Three 1st XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Stourbridge	7	5	1	0	1	112	
Stratford-U-Avon	7	5	0	1	0	112	
Rugby	7	5	0	1	0	109	
Old Hill	7	4	0	2	0	95	
Lichfield	7	3	0	4	0	82	
Handsworth	7	3	0	2	0	79	
Pelsall	7	2	1	3	0	62	
Redditch	7	1	1	4	0	60	
Whitchurch	7	1	2	3	0	55	
Newport	7	1	1	4	0	52	
Old Elizabethans	7	2	0	4	0	52	
Mitford Hall	7	1	0	5	0	46	

Premier Division 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Shifnal	7	5	1	0	1	116	
Leamington	7	5	0	1	0	113	
Wolverhampton	7	4	0	1	0	99	
Tamworth	7	3	0	3	0	86	
Walney	7	3	0	3	0	82	
Kenilworth W	7	3	0	2	0	81	
Knowle & D	7	2	1	3	0	71	
Brockhampton	7	2	1	3	0	69	
Moseley	7	2	1	3	0	68	
Atcock	7	1	1	4	0	55	
Harborne	7	1	1	4	0	45	
Hinley	7	1	0	5	0	44	

Division One 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Bromsgrove	7	5	1	0	1	122	
Halesowen	7	5	0	1	0	114	
WB Dartmouth	7	4	0	2	0	100	
Walsall	7	4	0	3	0	93	
Barnet Green	7	3	2	1	0	91	
Penkridge	7	2	1	3	0	78	
Ombersley	7	2	1	3	0	69	
Coventry & N.W.	7	2	1	3	0	59	
Shrewsbury	7	1	1	4	0	58	
Wombourne	7	1	1	5	0	54	
Pershore	7	1	0	5	0	36	

Division Two 2nd XI (N)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Fordhouses	7	6	1	0	0	141	
Bridgnorth	6	6	0	0	0	124	
Pelsall	7	5	0	2	0	112	
Old Hill	7	4	1	1	0	96	
C & R Hawks	7	3	0	3	0	84	
Smethwick	7	2	1	3	0	73	
Wem	6	2	0	3	1	60	
Mitford Hall	6	2	0	3	0	59	
Lichfield	6	2	0	3	0	57	
Wombourne	7	2	1	3	0	56	
Wolverhampton	7	1	0	6	0	38	
Whitchurch	7	1	0	6	0	32	
Newport	7	0	1	6	0	27	

Division Two 2nd XI (S)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Fordhouses	7	6	1	0	0	141	
Bridgnorth	6	6	0	0	0	124	
Pelsall	7	5	0	2	0	112	
Old Hill	7	4	1	1	0	96	
C & R Hawks	7	3	0	3	0	84	
Smethwick	7	2	1	3	0	73	
Wem	6	2	0	3	1	60	
Mitford Hall	6	2	0	3	0	59	
Lichfield	6	2	0	3	0	57	
Wombourne	7	2	1	3	0	56	
Wolverhampton	7	1	0	6	0	38	
Whitchurch	7	1	0	6	0	32	
Newport	7	0	1	6	0	27	

Division Two 2nd XI (N)

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	7	5	1	0	1	124	
Kidderminster	7	5	0	1	1	102	
Stratford-U-Avon	7	3	0	3	0	90	
Rugby	7	3	0	1	0	89	
Old Hill	7	4	0	2	0	85	
C & R Hawks	7	3	0	3	0	84	
Smethwick	7	2	1	3	0	73	
Wem	6	2	0	3	1	60	
Mitford Hall	6	2	0	3	0	59	
Lichfield	6	2	0	3	0	57	
Wombourne	7	2	1	3	0	56	
Wolverhampton	7	1	0	6	0	38	
Whitchurch	7	1	0	6	0	32	
Newport	7	0	1	6	0	27	

Division Three 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	7	5	1	0	1	124	
Kidderminster	7	5	0	2	0	100	
Stratford-U-Avon	7	3	0	3	0	90	
Rugby	7	3	0	1	0	89	
Old Hill	7	4	0	2	0	85	
C & R Hawks	7	3	0	3	0	84	
Smethwick	7	2	1	3	0	73	
Wem	6	2	0	3	1	60	
Mitford Hall	6	2	0	3	0	59	
Lichfield	6	2	0	3	0	57	
Wombourne	7	2	1	3	0	56	
Wolverhampton	7	1	0	6	0	38	
Whitchurch	7	1	0	6	0	32	
Newport	7	0	1	6	0	27	

Division One 2nd XI

	P	W	D	L	T	A	P
Berkswell	7	5	1	0	1	124	
Kidderminster	7	5	0	2	0	100	
Stratford-U-Avon	7	3	0	3	0	90	
Rug							

Hill Climb records tumble at Loton Park

DISTANT drivers took the honours in the two British Hill Climb Championship rounds at Loton Park, near Shrewsbury on Sunday.

Scottish driver Wallace Menzies won the first run-off, but spinning off the track in the second round, while Channel Islands man Jason Mourant won his first ever British round by taking the afternoon session.

Perfect conditions saw Andy Griffiths of Market Drayton retain a healthy lead in the BMTR Midland Championship in his Caterham Hayabusa, while Telford's Jonathon Varley edges closer in his GWR Predator racing car.

Olivia Cooper set a new outright Ladies Hill Record of 48.04 seconds in her 1600cc motorcycleg-engined Force TA racing car.

Robert Kenrick of Llangollen broke the 1100cc Class Record twice in one day with his amazing GWR Raptor single seat racing car, while James Kerr and Richard Brant broke the 60 second barrier in the 'road going' under 2000cc class in their Peugeot 205 and Renault Clio.

Midland Championship organiser Bill Pardoe, said: "The county's premier motor sport venue is in excellent condition and the weather was absolutely perfect so it was fantastic for spectators to witness so many exciting records being broken in this wonderful setting."

"The competition in the BMTR Midland Hill Climb championship is very close with a wide variety of cars competing which makes for a great spectacle and thanks must go to all the volunteer marshals who man the safety posts at positions all along the track throughout the day, without whom these events would not be possible."

■ Members of the public can have a go at Loton Park as organisers Hagley Car Club are holding a driving school on July 11 for people to drive their own everyday road legal cars under instruction and with video analysis on the course, with full details available on the club's website at www.hdccc.com.

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

Saturday

Premier division: Frankton v Cound, Ludlow v Worfield, Newtown v St Georges, Sentinel v Madeley, Bonner Heath v Quatt, Wem (no game).

Division one: Forton v Welshpool, Alberbury v Beacon, Knockin and Kinrley v Allscott Heath, Corve Dale, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Shelton, Wroxeter and Uppington v Pontesbury.

Division two: Willey v Montgomery, Ludlow 3 v Bishop's Castle, HPTCC v Wheaton Aston, Wellington 3 v Shrewsbury 3, Lilleshall v Ellesmere, Church Aston v Shifnal 3.

Division three: Cae Glas v Hinckley, Iscoyd and Fenns Bank v Church Stretton, Chelmarsh v St Georges 3, Prees v Acton Reynald, Calverhall v Harpers, Overton on Dee v Much Wenlock.

Division four: Trysull and Seisdon v Coton Hall, Bridgnorth 3 v Beacon 3, Quasyide v Corve Dale, Harcourt v Llanidloes, Oswestry 3 v Gifford, Colm 3 (no game).

Second teams

Division one: Worfield 2, Alberbury 2, Montgomery 2 v Frankton 2, Shelton 2 v Sentinel 2, Wem 2 v Wellington 2, St Georges 2 v Knockin and Kinrley 2, Quatt 2 v Wroxeter and Uppington 2.

Division two: Beacon 2 v Ludlow 2, Cound 2 v Willey 2, Maddeley 2 v Lilleshall 2, Acton Reynald 2 v Broseley, Allscott Heath 2 v Newtown 2, Shifnal 4 v Bonner Heath 2.

Division three: Ellesmere 2 v Cae Glas 2, Much Wenlock 2 v Iscoyd and Fenns Bank 2, Welshpool 2 v Condover 2, St Georges 4 v Market Drayton 2, Pontesbury 2 v Forton 2, Albrighton 2 v Lilleshall 4, Bishop's Castle 2 v Quatt 3, Corvedale 2 v Allscott Heath 3.

Sunday

Division one: Wellington 5 v Shrewsbury 4, Lilleshall 3 v Knockin and Kinrley 3, Newport 3 v Wem 3, Colmore Sentinel 3, Frankton 3 v Pontesbury 2 v Worfield 3 No game.

Division two: Alberbury 3 v Madeley 3, Knockin and Kinrley 4 v Whitchurch 3, Madeley 4 v Wellington 6, Oswestry 4 v Bonner Heath 3, Ludlow 4 v Bridgnorth 4.

Castle kings just miss out on ton-up aggregate

Division one

MEOLE Brace A 12 (247) **OSBC 2** (181): A big points haul for the Bracers who had Darren Watkins with the only single figure card of the night 21-6 while the Shrews had Andy Pullen 21-17 and Rich winning the battle of the Joneses 21-20.

Ludlow Castle 12 (242) **Whittington 2** (143): Despite five single figure winners the Castle missed the ton up by one chalk. Dave Wilding led the way with 21-2 and was followed by Tom Harrington 21-3. The visitors' points came from Ben Hampson 21-15 and Graham Humphrys 21-17.

Telepost 11 (241) **Battlefield 3** (159): A comfortable home win for the Posties as they led 4-0 with Dad John 21-6 and Rich Addison 21-8, the Lions then shared the middle with Harry Ryder 21-15. 3 wins at the end secured the home win.

Ele + Castle 13 (241) **Castlefields 1** (165): This big win

TANNERS SHROPSHIRE BOWLS by Cornerman

moved the Ele to the top of the table as Dawn Gray led the way 21-6 with Stuart Greaves and Jamie Brooks matching with 21-9 wins. The Fields' point came from the classy Luke Jones also 21-9.

Ifton 12 (231) **Bishop's Castle 2** (137): Five single figure cards for Ifton with Charlie Blain and Gareth Williams 21-2 while the Castle had Terry Buffon 21-8 and Andrew Evans 21-13.

Princie Hotel 8 (222) **Pontesbury A** 6 (187): A very good six points for the Nags who had Neil Edwards playing with his brothers old bowls winning 21-11 while the Hotel held on for the aggregate with the help of Rob Jones 21-2 and Tracy Ryan 21-4.

Hanwood 4 (207) **Crescent 10** (226): The Crescent lads had a party night at the Cock with a super result as they led 3-1 and 6-2

with Mark Harris and Mike Stephens 21-9. The Wood's best result came at the end with Phil J Price 21-10 and Steve Francis 21-11.

Division two

Pontesbury B 9 (232) **Burway 5** (175): Five good points for the visitors who had Tom Mosley 21-14 and Camilla Parsonage 21-17. The Nags were comfortable for the agg with Brian Williams 21-1 and Charlie Hotchkiss 21-6.

Oswestry Church 13 (245) **Hadnall 1** (151): A big win for the Church with Paul Smith 21-6 the best of five single figure wins. Saving the whitewash was Will Childs with 21-14.

Abbey 9 (229) **Craven Arms 5** (194): The Arms would be happy with five points but they had led 3-1. Their best card came in the middle with Ian Bishop 21-14. The Abbey saved their best until the end with Stuart Dorsett 21-3 and John Dorsett 21-8.

Bictor A 11 (218) **Shelton Village 3** (170): This derby saw

Bictor pick up big points with Gary Middleton 21-6, Rob Jones 21-7 and Paul Ashworth 21-8, while the Village had Roger Lem 21-5.

Frankwell 13 (239) **Prince Hotel B** 1 (166): Neil Lewis with 21-8 saved the Hotel B's blushes as Borough ran riot with Andrew Runham 21-3 and Bob Simpson 21-5.

Meole Brace Village 11 (241) **Unison 3** (186): A solid win for the Village after sharing the first four which saw Unison's coppers go to Simon Reynolds 21-14, while the Villages top pair were John Crundell 21-6 and Peter Phillips 21-8.

Division three

Wem BC 14 (252) **Bictor B** (101): This full house against winless Bictor helped Wem open up a 15 point lead at the top, Sam Ellison 21-1 best of nine single figure winners. Shaun Phillips was closest for the visitors with 18.

Severnside St Julians 13 (250) **Worthen & Brockton 1** (124): Worthen are also winless as the Saints enjoyed their third win, Mark Parry's opponent not scoring and Mark Lanning adding a 21-3. Sue Worley was a Worthen winner 21-19.

Albert Road BC 12 (247) **Elephant & Castle B** (2) (177): A 70 chalk win for Albert Road with Mark Hill best with 21-4, while Bryan Williams took the Ele coppers 21-18, bettering Mal Wilde's 21-19.

Oxon 11 (231) **Bayston Hill 3** (177): Rob Mitton 21-8 and a pair of nines from the McKinley's helped set up this comfortable win, John Davies 21-12 for the Hillbillies.

Greenfields Social 8 (210) **Wem USC 6** (213): Close match at Greenfields with the visitors just taking the match points by three chalks, Carl Pawlowski and Barry Thomas both winning 21-6.

Meole enjoy the Road trip with fine win

MEOLE BRACE were happy travellers in the latest round of matches in the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowling League as they enjoyed their trip to Whitchurch to face **CHESTER ROAD**, writes **STUART DUNN**.

Meole, who are seventh in the table ahead of their home clash with Burway on Friday night, headed home to Shrewsbury as 11-5 (agg 21) victors. Tim Jordan led the way for Meole with a 21-9 card against Andy Smith while Will Tarrel also impressed as he got the better of Les Markham 21-11. The Roaders, who go to Bylet next, were well served by Martin Lloyd, a 21-10 conqueror of Julian Cooke, and Paul Williams, who beat Dave Redge 21-12.

WEM USC are a point and a place below Meole following their 12-2 (agg 73) home success against Hamner. Neil Boxall was Wem's best winner, beating Alan Faulkner 21-7. Then came Chris Brettell 21-8. Wem head to second-placed Sir John Bayley on Friday.

CASTLEFIELDS, the reigning champions, were made to work hard for an 8-6 (agg 5) home win over second-bottom Ifton.

Michael Beer once again set high standards for the fourth-placed Shrewsbury side by toppling Joey Williams 21-6. There were also single-figure home victories for Paul Williams 21-7 and Callum Wraight 21-9. Fields travel to Hamner, currently the division's backmarkers, on Friday night.

HANWOOD, in fifth, lost 9-5 (agg 21) to Bowring. Dave Burton was the pick of the five away winners, overcoming Brian Jarvis 21-13, with Nick Davies, who prevailed 21-16, next best for Hanwood, who are at home to St Georges on Friday.

County win thriller to book semi spot

CRICKET by Stuart Dunn

SHROPSHIRE held their nerve to win another tight game as they booked their place in the semi-finals of the **Unicorns Trophy** with an impressive three-wicket victory at Norfolk.

After exciting wins over Herefordshire and Staffordshire in the previous rounds, Shropshire this time got home with three balls to spare at Manor Park, Horsforth, Norwich.

Four wickets from Wellington seamer Jack Twigger - who had been set to be 12th man until Alex Wyatt was ruled out by a shoulder injury - helped restrict Norfolk to 246-8 from their 50 overs before half centuries from Steve Leach and Alexei Kervezee set up a successful chase.

Simon Gregory and Gurjot Sandhu then saw the job through to seal another memorable win for the delighted visitors.

Shropshire join Cheshire, Devon and Suffolk in the last four of the competition.

Skipper Leach said: "We've had three tight games and got over the line in each of them, so we take a lot of confidence from that. We've knocked out three really good teams."

Leach hailed "a really good team performance" but highlighted the contribution of four-wicket Twigger with the ball.

"Jack was outstanding," he said. "Alex Wyatt pulled up about a minute before the toss because his shoulder wasn't right and Jack came in. He was going to be 12th man and with the character he's shown it was a tough decision to initially leave him out really.

"He was superb and he bowled really, really well. There was a bit of bounce in the pitch, a bit of life in it and he really exploited that."

Twigger took 4-47 from 10 lively overs, with two wickets apiece for Sandhu and Ross Autcott, as Norfolk, held together by 63 from opener Jordan Taylor and 51 from Scotland international Rob Taylor, set Shropshire a competitive target.

Boundaries

Shropshire, in reply, soon lost Omar Ali for 13, but Leach and Will Parton took the score from 26-1 to 82-2 during a productive partnership worth 58, which was ended when Shrewsbury's Parton was bowled by home captain Ashley Watson for 21. Leach had moved on to 60 from 70 balls, with six fours, when he departed caught and bowled by Ryan Findlay.

Kervezee also notched a half century, hitting three sixes and three boundaries, before falling for 59 from 50 deliveries, caught behind by Sam Groves off Brett Stolworthy.

From being well set at 190-3, Shropshire suddenly found themselves on 199-6 as Robbie Clarke, who hit an unbeaten century in the last round at Staffordshire, was trapped leg before by Watson for two and then Autcott was removed by Stolworthy for a bick 35.

There was still work to be done when Sam Whitney was caught by Watson off Stolworthy (3-46) for six to leave Shropshire on 213-7.

But then wicketkeeper Gregory (19no) and former Middlesex man Sandhu (25no), who had a runner for the closing stages after being struck on the leg by the ball as he scampered a quick single, guided the happy visitors home.

"Gurj had a runner and it just added to it a little bit," said Leach. "He played a really good hand and Simon Gregory was very composed at the end, so all credit to them."

"It was a real team performance and we thoroughly deserved to win this match."

■ Shropshire play their final group games in the Unicorns Twenty20 competition when they face Buckinghamshire at Whitchurch on Sunday.

Holly nets British second spot



Shropshire's Holly Mowling won three of her four singles matches in Bournemouth

HOLLY Mowling, the long-serving captain of the Shropshire ladies team, was runner-up to the world's top over-35s player at the British Seniors' Clay Court Championships in Bournemouth.

sponded impressively to win her three other matches during an enjoyable week on the south coast.

She got the better of Bedfordshire's Claire Raddan 6-1, 6-1 and followed it up by overcoming Hampshire's Debbie Hale 6-3, 6-0.

Holly, 36, knew she had to beat French player Francoise Grindou, the world No 4, in her final game to secure second place.

She lost the first set 6-0 but then found her rhythm and hit back in style to take the next two 6-3, 6-3.

"It was a great week and I was happy to finish in second place from a strong field of players," But Holly, from Broseley, re-

said Holly. "Iva again proved just too strong for all of us and is on another level."

Holly also played in the doubles, partnering Raddan, but they were beaten 6-1, 6-1 by former WTA tour players Michelle Oldham and Teresa Cain.

She added: "We enjoyed the game but were outclassed by an extremely experienced doubles pair."

Holly is now looking forward to competing at the British Seniors' Grass court Championships in Surbiton in August.

The Shropshire ace is currently ranked 16th in the ITF's over-35 world rankings and third in Great Britain.

Ifton ace Hughes bows out in semis

IFTON team-mates became rivals as Andy Hughes went close to giving Wales' first winner of bowls' Spring Waterloo.

Hughes, winner of the Meole Brace Open in 2015, stormed through to the semi-finals in Blackpool – with one of his three victims being Leighton Roberts, a colleague in the St Martins club's Shropshire Premier League side.

He beat Mark Allman 21-13 as the 32 qualifiers went into battle, then saw off Roberts 21-14 and quarter-final rival Mark King 21-18.

But Hughes came unstuck 21-16 against Bolton's Kevan Shaw, who went on to win the title by defeating local hero Wayne Ditchfield in the final 21-15.

Past winners Graeme Wilson and Gary Ellis fell early, while defending champion Mike Leach lost second round to another former winner, Glyn Cookson.

Ifton's Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowling League side were encouraged by an 8-6 (202-197) defeat at Castlefields.

Struggling in second bottom, Ifton got six winners against the Shrewsbury side, with skipper Dickie Jones was very happy to get six winners.

"We were 12 down with Martin Jones last man on the green 19-7 up so nearly pulled off a shock win," said Jones.

"But Castlefields did have five regulars out."

Craig Griffiths was best winner to 6 for the visitors while Mike Beer was likewise for the home side.

■ Sir John Bayley are 'within touching distance' of leaders Newport following an impressive away victory.

The Wellington-based outfit avenged last season's whitewash as they won 12-4 (206-191 aggregate) at Burway.

It was their second triumph over Burway in the space of just three days after also beating them in the County Cup.

Vice-skipper Scott Simpson said: "It was a very good result. We were 3-1 down, but then we got the order right."

"We went for a big-ish middle and all a big back four – and all our back four won so that was great. It keeps us near the top, within touching distance."

Kiah Roberts was the star performer for Burway with a 21-4 victory over Bayley's Norman Harvey.

Newport picked up another good result with an 8-6 (226-196) defeat at Wrockwardine Wood, who had been in second spot.

Russell Pegram and Paul Reeves got the joint-best result for the league leaders, with 21-14 wins over Dale Downes and Ian Whitehouse respectively.

County ladies fall just short

SHROPSHIRE'S Senior Women's team continued their improved form when they took on Staffordshire at Knypersley CC.

Batting first, the hosts finished on 206-7 from their 50 overs with Sammi Short claiming 3-42 and Batkin 2-34. In reply, Robyn Matthews held the innings together with 65 while skipper Lara Jones hit 22, Courtney Cooper 27 and Rachel Chesters 20 as Shropshire finished just 13 runs short on 193-9.

Their game against Leicestershire and Rutland the previous day at Alfreton was brought to an abrupt halt by the thunder storm which swept through Shropshire.

Batting first, the visitors had finished on 184-4 with Batkin, Jordi Matthews, Copper and Ashleigh Heath claiming wickets. But before Shropshire could start their reply, the storm arrived to curtail proceedings.

Four-star Knockin dance to super win

CRICKET

Knockin & Kinnerley 198-5 (20 pts) beat Pontesbury 197-9 (6 pts)

STAND-IN captain Matty Evans led Knockin to another Shropshire League first division victory and made it four in a row for the visitors at unbeaten Pontesbury.

The home team were put in to bat and while batsmen got in, no-one was really able to push on and they were ultimately disappointed in their 197-9.

Again Knockin's bowlers performed with good discipline and the wickets were shared around.

As last week at Wroxeter, Josh Keys (79 not out) was the lynchpin of the Knockin innings, but this week he was able to rely on good support from his partners.

In this regard, Dave 'disco' Jones (36) was the stand-out, driving rhythmically through the covers and dancing down the pitch to the spinners.

Jamie Birch also distinguished himself with a solid 28 and he promises much more in weeks to come.

But it was Keys who saw the team over the line as Knockin took the game 198-5 in the 38th over.

Evans was pleased to get the result, saying: "Our bowlers again set us up well this week."

"Josh Keys has been a great acquisition for us the season. We had a little wobble when we went from 58-1 to 63 for 4 in a couple of overs. But I know Disco and Josh enjoyed batting together and there was some stylish stuff on display out there."

Challenges

"Next week is Allscott who currently top the table at the Nursery Ground and I know our boys are relishing the challenges this year."

Knockin & Kinnerley II 124 (4 pts) lost to Quatt II 236-6 (20pts)

Knockin lost to a strong Quatt side in reserve division one at the Nursery Ground on Saturday.

Quatt posted 236-6 in their 45 overs and Knockin, losing early wickets, were always struggling to keep up with the rate.

The team featured a number of returning players and selection challenges for this team will hopefully be looking up in the next few weeks.

■ Knockin & Kinnerley's third team had a free weekend.

Knockin & Kinnerley VI 158-7 (20 pts) beat Madeley III 156 (7pts)

Madeley set a target of 156 in the County League Sunday division two clash, where Ant James's mystery spin earning four wickets for the visitors.

Knockin slid to 27-3 and then 66-6, but Barney Pitt restored order for the team. Pitt finished on an unbeaten 58, and was well supported by Mac Niddrie Davis as Knockin ended victorious.

Olympian Dan third over the hill



Oswestry Olympians' Ian Lowe and (right) Dan Samuels dig in

THERE were concerns that this years Mynydd Myfyr hill run would be affected by storms, but luckily the thunder and lightning blew over to enable 50 runners to take on the four mile challenge,

which takes place annually as part of the Trefonen Hill Walk weekend.

First Oswestry Olympian home was Daniel Samuels in a creditable third, after leading the climb

only to be overtaken by Jez Brown and eventual winner Kristian McKenna on the descent. Hilary Rees (unaffiliated) was first lady home, Oswestry Olympian Evan Roberts was first junior.



Evan Roberts and (right) Sean Butler compete in the Mynydd Myfyr hill run

Heath hits ton to lead Hoppers home

CRICKET by Stuart Dunn

Zeke Mellor the highlight, as they ended on 91-7.

Bomber Heath moved into third place after piling on the runs at Pontesbury. Travis Keys top scored with 94 while Rob Dean (48) and Ben Cox (34) also contributed to an impressive total of 206-4. Owen Morris (44) and Robbie Hartshorn (28) opened well for Pontesbury, but two wickets for Charlie Home slowed progress down as the hosts closed on 155-5.

Beacon are still unbeaten in the second division at the halfway stage of the season after their latest victory over Alberbury. The consistent Mike Crawshaw top scored with 36 as a tidy bowling display from the league leaders, led by stand-in skipper Anthony Duffy (3-6), reduced the Pecknall Farm outfit to 98-7.

Kiwi Jamie Connell and Mike Turner were both unbeaten on 31 as Beacon eased to a nine-wicket victory with more than six overs to spare.

Whitchurch leapfrogged Cound into second place after beating them at Harnage Road by 15 runs. An unbeaten 49 from Evelyn Jones, the captain of the Lancashire women's team, helped the north Shropshire side up to 127-6. Jack Case continued his good run of form with 55 at the top of the order for Cound, but the hosts were dismissed for 111 as Tom Griffin took 3-22.

Rough & Tumblers came away from Prees with maximum points as a half century from Alun Morris helped the Oswestry side total 114-8, with Elliott Bowen claiming 3-12.

But Prees were then skittled for just 63, with N. Woodcock (3-7) and Adam Lloyd (3-12) causing much of the damage.

Das tops the bill as Wem stay on charge

INDIAN overseas ace Rishav Das starred with bat and ball as Wem crushed fellow title contenders Sentinel to stay top of the Henshalls Insurance Shropshire County League.

The 28-year-old plundered his second century of the season and then picked up three wickets in a one-sided encounter.

Das's 127, from just 121 balls, helped the leaders compile 302-5 from 50 overs.

And he then finished with figures of 3-9 as Sentinel were skittled out for just 55, to lose by 247 runs.

James Astley also claimed 4-21 and Danny Cohen 3-25 as Wem blew away their hotly-tipped visitors.

Skipper Sam Peate said: "It was a superb result and we played some excellent cricket."

"We're in really good form at the moment and it is another game knocked off."

"At the midway point we wondered whether a score of 300 might not be enough. The outfield was very quick."

"To bowl them out for 55 really was tremendous. No-one is getting carried away. It is only one result and I expect Sentinel to be there or thereabouts at the end of the season. But we have to be pleased."

Das, who plays First Class cricket for Assam, has wasted no time getting used to English conditions, currently averaging more than 78 with the bat and only 15 with the ball.

Peate added: "Rishav is a quality player and seems to have mastered the conditions very quickly."

"He has already got two big hundreds for us in two big games."

"We knew he was a good batsman but his off-spin has been a real bonus. You are never quite sure how any overseas player will adapt but he seems to really enjoy playing here."

Saturday's win was Wem's sixth on the bounce, yet their lead at the top remains at two points after Madeley continued their own superb form with a five-wicket win at home to Frankton.

Thomas Wilkie hit 68 for the visitors, who compiled a decent total of 248-9 from 50 overs.

But the hosts proved more than ready for the race, the top three all scoring half-centuries as the target was reached with more than two overs to spare, opener Andrew Lloyd top scoring with 70.

Oswestry stay on top form after a battle

OSWESTRY Tennis Club's Men's first team worked hard for a draw in the Shropshire League after a trip to face Albrighton's first team – with two points keeping them top of the table.

In the first round rubbers the first pair of captain Martin Shortt and Oliver Tombs took the first set against the opposing first pair on a tie-break and then completed the rubber 6-3 in the second.

The second pair of Gary Edwards and Matt Grice were beaten in straight sets 4-6, 6-7 by the Albrighton second pair.

In the reverse rubbers Shortt and Tombs had an easier time winning in straight sets 6-3, 6-1 but Edwards and Grice had a real humdinger of a contest that consisted of three tie-break sets, dropping the first 6-7, taking the second 7-6 but then narrowly lost out in the deciding third set tie break 0-1.

This resulted in an overall draw with each team claiming two points.

With only two fixtures left to play due to the late withdrawal of Longden Tennis Club the team are currently sitting at the top of the league two points ahead of their nearest rivals.

Sport

OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

Williams calls time on stay at New Saints

TNS Ladies boss Andy Williams has stepped down after a year at the club, citing personal reasons for his exit, writes LEWIS COX.

School headteacher Williams' last act as Saints chief was to lift the Tom Farmer Cup with a fine 1-0 win against Shrewsbury Town Ladies at the New Bucks Head.

But the club, who finished fifth in the Midlands Division One last season, are now seeking a third manager in a little over 12 months.

"I am sorry to be leaving TNS," said Williams. "Everyone knows I have a very challenging day job – the life of a head-teacher is incredibly pressurised."

"Balancing my professional duties as a head with those of a voluntary coaching role as manager of TNS Ladies' first team ensuring that they are regularly competitive has been extremely difficult for me."

Proud

"I am incredibly proud of what the team has achieved together."

"I am confident that I leave the team and the club in a better place than before I arrived."

"It has been an amazing season and this (final win) was a fitting way to go out. I've challenged the players to use this success as the catalyst to achieve greater things in their lives."

The Saints finished 25 points short of title-winners Loughborough Foxes.

Williams continued: "I'd like to thank Ian Brazier for appointing me and giving me this opportunity, the players, the staff and committee and all the loyal fans."

Glas fail to shine in away day defeat

IT was a disappointing day for Cae Glas at Harper Adams in the Shropshire Cricket League division three as they looked to build on their fine victory of last week against Acton Reynalds.

Things started well as they won the toss and invited the home side to bat. It was not to last though as the Harpers batsmen went for their shots from the outset and at one stage looked to be racing towards 250.

But some fine outfield catching pegged them back and they were dismissed in the 35th over for 192. Pick of the bowlers were Nathan Bartram (3-46), Matt Coulson (3-20), with Gareth Edgerton's 1-12 not reflecting how well he bowled in his opening spell to contain the Harpers top order.

Key contributors for Harpers were Suni John (47) and Kumara Bayalapud (38), with a quick fire 60 coming from Biant Singh who raced to his half century with some massive blows towards the end of the innings.

In reply Cae Glas failed to build on some promising partnerships as wickets fell steadily and they, in turn, were dismissed for 109.

Cricket
Knockin win No4
on the spin – P39

Athletics
Olympians get
over hill – P39



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TNS back in
IRN-BRU
Cup action

THE New Saints will be competing in the IRN-BRU Cup next season along with Connah's Quay Nomads.

The Welsh Premier League confirmed the news along with the fact that Vanarama National League sides have been invited into the competition for the first time, Boreham Wood and Sutton United taking the two allocated places.

A spokesperson said: "The SPFL is pleased to announce a further expansion of the IRN-BRU Cup with the introduction of two English National League representatives to the competition next season."

The announcement comes after the successful change of format introduced in 2016/17, which saw two teams each from Northern Ireland and Wales, additional clubs from the Highland and Lowland Leagues and all Ladbrokes Premiership under-20 Colt teams taking part, followed by the addition of two teams from the League of Ireland in season 2017/18.

"Now, following UEFA approval, Sutton United and Boreham Wood – the highest-ranked Vanarama National League sides in 2017/18 still competing in the division – will join the Irish (Bohemians and Bray Wanderers), Northern Irish (Crusaders and Coleraine) and Welsh (The New Saints and Connah's Quay Nomads) representatives at the Second Round stage of the competition.

"The first round draw will take place on Tuesday, June 26. Full competition format details will be announced in due course."

The New Saints have reached the semi-finals of the competition in both of the previous two seasons. They lost last year to Dumbarton, who also knocked out Connah's Quay en-route to the final.

Ex-Saints star Pryce of interest to Cardiff

FORMER New Saints full-back Ryan Pryce could be set for a move to Premier League new-boys Cardiff City.

The 20-year-old, from Telford, caught the eye of scouts at Jamie Vardy's V9 Academy last week and the Bluebirds are reportedly keen to secure his signature, with several other clubs interested.

Pryce left TNS last month and also had a trial at Middlesbrough last year.

He joined the Welsh Premier League champions on a two-year scholarship after he was released by Shrewsbury Town, aged 15, and was a key player under Scott Ruscoe.

The Saints have already been back in pre-season training for over a week, with their first friendly being against Cefn Druids on June 20.

And they have been building up for the new campaign with a pre-season trip to Portugal starting this week.

They will find out next Tuesday who they will face in the Champions League first qualifying round, with the qualifying round game set to be played on either June 27 or 28.

OSWESTRY GET CRUCIAL WIN

CRICKET by John Hulme

ANOTHER fine display of bowling by Ian Davies set Oswestry first team on the road to victory on Saturday as they beat Birmingham League division one rivals Brockhampton by six wickets.

Davies, bowling an impeccable line and regularly beating the bat with his late out-swing, returned the impressive figures 4-37 off 14 overs. He is now Oswestry's leading wicket taker this season.

The Oswestry talisman was well supported by Roman Walker (3-31) and Ritu Raj Singh (2-31) as the team from South Hereford were bowled out for 107 in just 34 overs.

Earlier the visitors had raced to 35 in even time, with Worcestershire opener Daryl Mitchell and Adam Hewlett looking in control, but it was Davies who made the all important breakthrough, having Hewlett comfortably caught at mid-off by Warrick Fynn.

When Walker was brought on from the Morda Road end, he looked a fair distance bowler trapping Mitchell lbw on the back foot. In so doing, the Cidermen quickly subsided, losing their last five wickets for just 22 runs.

Mitchell with over 10,000 runs to his credit in first class cricket was Brockhampton's top scorer with a stylish and highly organised 39 of 69 balls. His dismissal was crucial to the Oswestry cause.

Oswestry's innings could not have got off to a worse start. Opener Warrick Fynn could only stare in disbelief as he lost his off stump, first ball, to left-arm Herefordshire Minor Counties paceman, Jamie McIlroy.

Skipper Robbie Clark soon followed, also falling to McIlroy who this week will be having trials with Essex.

Joe Carrasco and Joe Clark carefully restored order sharing an excellent 80 run partnership to take Oswestry to the brink of victory before Clarke (37) fell to a brilliant one-handed catch by his Worcester team-mate, Mitchell.

After the game, the popular and widely respected Davies could not conceal his delight in victory, saying: "I am really enjoying my cricket at the moment, the youngsters keep me going!"

This Saturday the side travelled to Bromsgrove.

■ The seconds made the trip to the Black Country in the Reserve Division, but went down by four wickets to Old Hill. It was very much a case of 'like father, like son', with Mattie Davies, the young Oswestry School captain returning figures of 4-26, even better than Davies senior. This was after Oswestry had been dismissed for total of 146 off 48 overs. Alex Roberts top scored with a valuable 41 before being run out while, Josh Kirk, looking for a quick return to the first team, played well for his 29.

Rachel on top of the world



Rachel Atherton takes to the Austrian skies and (inset) on the podium after her victory

RACHEL Atherton won gold at the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup leg in Austria.

The racer, who lives near Oswestry, secured her 35th World Cup win at Leogang – and it was 100th World Cup win by a Brit with a further nine going to brother Gee who also raced in Austria over the weekend.

It was also a first World Cup win of the season for the 30-year-old four-time world downhill champion.

Leogang has never been one of Rachel's favourite tracks with the emphasis here more on speed than technical ability but some course changes including a tricky off-camber corner at the start of the track had all the riders excited for the challenge.

Rachel came into this race hungry for the win after an amazing chainless run at Fort William last week resulted in a third place but she didn't qualify well, going down hard in a rut that had been getting deeper all weekend.

Her bike got tangled on a pole and cost her a lot of time leaving her in 16th place and when Rachel came on track there were still seven women at the top of the hill and Australia's Sian Aherne was in the hotseat.

However, Rachel came out fast. Carrying a lot

of speed through the technical off-camber section, she was up five seconds on Aherne by split one, extending her lead to a massive 10 seconds by split 3.

The team caught their breath as she had a tiny stall but she recovered well, crossing the line almost 12 seconds clear.

But her stay in the hotseat wasn't a easy time, just two runs later France's Myriam Nicole was in touch from the start, moving to within 0.5 by split three, she gained on Rachel through the woods going 0.5 clear of the leader by split four but post the final split a ragged ride lost her time – she crossed into second 0.6 seconds back from Rachel.

Then all eyes were on Rachel's neighbour and fellow Brit Tahnee Seagrave. Tahnee dropped low on the off camber section, recovered well but she was 0.8 down by the first split, 1.6 down by split 2.

She looked as if she would cross into third place today but disaster struck, she was blown off course and outside the tapes over the jumps and disqualified.

Myriam Nicole now leads the overall standings by just 10 points with 610 to Rachel's 600 points and all to play for.



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19 Mile Oak Industrial Estate, Maesbury Road, Oswestry SY10 8HA

Tel: 01691 671500 | www.westpenninetrucks.com